NATION 3 CDC Details Flu-Fighting Strategy | **ENTERTAINMENT 15** Farrellys' Brotherly Love

express

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Weekend

DECEMBER 12-14, 2003

9/11 Cell: German court releases Hamburg suspect | 7

'Not Guilty': Former Md. top cop Norris enters plea | 10

Jumping Ship: Pettitte picks Astros over Yankees | 13

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

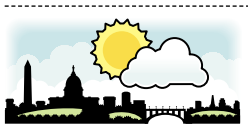
Ex-Yankee pitcher Andy Pettitte is introduced as a member of the Houston Astros.

Holiday Gift Guide

Your 83-Stop Shop: Pick up Metro-specific gifts, from red staplers to Kelly bags for the pooch.

>> 21-26

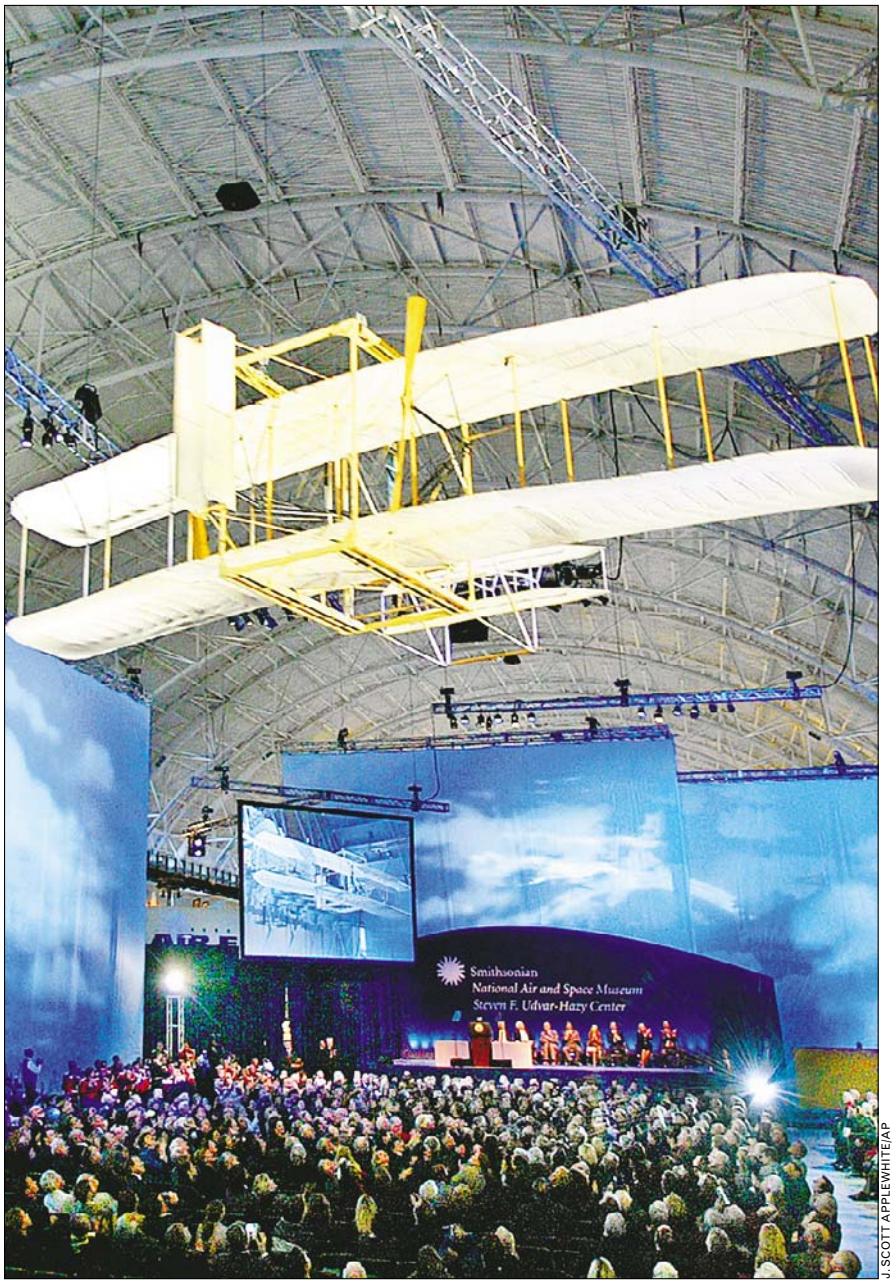
Weather > Mostly Sunny



47 | 30

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 30

SMITHSONIAN | WRIGHT AT HOME



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

HANGING OUT: A replica of the Wright Flyer glides on a track across the 10-story-high hangar of the new Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, an annex to the popular Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, as it is dedicated Thursday on the grounds of Dulles International Airport.

Setback For Dulles Rail Line

Next Metro Board chairman voices opposition to project

WASHINGTON | Metro's proposed rail extension to Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County, Va., hit another roadblock on Thursday.

The next chairman of the Metro Board, Robert J. Smith, said he opposes extending the rail to Loudoun County unless there is a change in the portion Maryland would pay for operating the line. Smith, who represents Montgomery County, Md., recommended instead that Virginia operate bus rapid transit from Tysons Corner to Loudoun County.

Dulles project officials estimate that rail service to Reston, in Fairfax County, would attract an average of 56,600 weekday riders in the proposed opening year of 2009. The second phase to Loudoun County would attract 78,100 riders when stations open in 2015.

Last week, the Herndon Town Council rejected plans to help fund the 23-mile extension. CANDACE SMITH (AP)

Dow Closes Above 10K

NEW YORK | In a powerful sign of economic confidence, the Dow Jones industrials closed above 10,000 Thursday for the first time in 18 months, bolstered by better-than-expected November retail sales and indications that the Federal Reserve won't raise interest rates any time soon. The last time the Dow closed above 10,000 was May 24, 2002. (AP)

ANIMAL WATCH | **Mad Cow** Susie Vera was already shaken on Sunday after she and her family hit a cow as they were driving at 65 mph through Hereford, Texas. But as she got out of the car to find help, she found the animal was still alive — and mighty angry. It rammed the car, and then charged Vera. "He plowed into me and I fell down and the cow rolled on top of me," she told the Plainview Daily Herald. With help from her family, Vera got back on her feet and fled. She was treated for her injuries. The cow apparently died at the scene. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

EyeOpeners

LUCKY

Cashier Cashes In

Courtesy counts in dealing with customers, but it also has paid off for a New Milford, Conn., supermarket cashier who says a rude customer turned out to be worth $25,000. A snippy customer balked last week when clerk Loretta Morris asked for a picture ID to complete his lottery ticket purchase. Although the man told Morris to "stick the ticket," she decided later to buy it herself rather then keep a loose ticket in the store. A winning scratch and a couple of days later, Morris and her husband had a check for $17,501 after federal and state taxes. (AP)

HEARSAY | JUSTICE

"We want to do the right thing. We shall do the right thing."

— KENNETH WIGGINS
PRESIDENT OF THE BOSSIER PARISH, LA., SCHOOL BOARD, ON FINDING A WAY TO EASE A BAN ON OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS SUCH AS ADVIL IN SCHOOLS.

PLINIO LEPRI/AP

SPORTS

Jet? Set.

Michael Schumacher beat a different sort of opponent on a different sort of track on Thursday: a fighter jet on a rain-soaked runway. The Formula One champion raced his Ferrari against an Italian Air Force jet in three races at a military airport organized by the Italian defense department. Schumacher's Ferrari F2003-GA was a nose faster than pilot Maurizio Cheli's Eurofighter Typhoon in the first race of 600 meters. The plane then easily won at 1,200 and 900 meters. The Eurofighter's top speed when airborne is listed at 1,521 mph; the Ferrari's limit is 229 mph. (AP)

POLICE

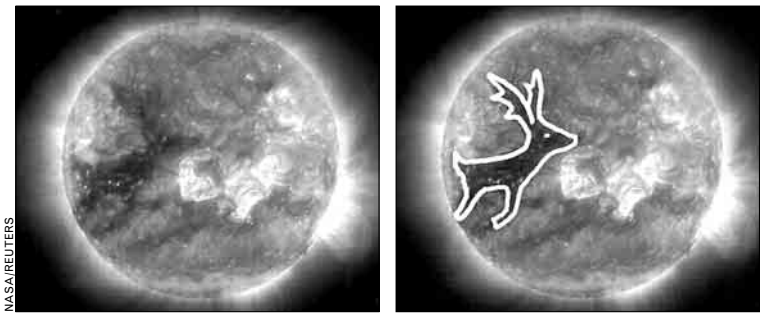
Lawman Slings Gun, Booze

By day, Police Chief Kevin Larson of Blanchardsville, Wis., can give chase, and at night he can pour you a chaser. Members of the village's Public Safety Committee decided Tuesday not to change regulations to prevent Larson from pouring alcoholic refreshments at Marcine's Bar and Grill. Larson, who worked as a bartender before becoming Blanchardsville's top cop, told the committee there aren't any ordinances to prevent him from tending bar. (AP)

ASTRONOMY

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Sun Spot

You may not have noticed, but even the Sun appears to be showing its holiday spirit. This two-picture illustration from NASA displays what one viewer described as the outline of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer in an ultraviolet snapshot of the Earth's life-sustaining orb. Scientists say the darker area is called a coronal hole, or a shape-shifting spot on the Sun in which solar particles are following open magnetic field lines out into space, Reuters reports. But don't try to see it for yourself. That would hurt. (EXPRESS)



NASA/REUTERS

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BRIAN KERSEY/AP

About 500 people wait in line to get flu shots in Wheaton, Ill., on Thursday, but nearly 100 were turned away when the Health Department ran out of vaccine.

Flu Outbreak Prompts Call For More Vaccine

The number of states hit hard by the flu has nearly doubled to 24 in the past week, the government said Thursday as it rushed to ship 100,000 doses of the vaccine to head off what could become one of the worst flu seasons in years.

The outbreak has taken an enormous toll nationwide: At least 23 children have died. Experts predict this year's death toll could surpass the annual average of 36,000 flu deaths.

Health officials are unsure why the outbreak has hit so early and why it seems to be so lethal in children.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the flu has hit all 50 states at least sporadically, and the season has not yet peaked.

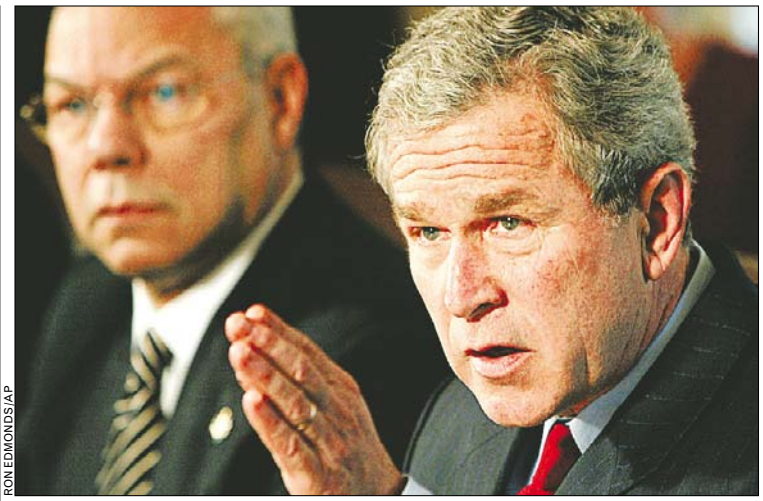
Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government had arranged for added doses of adult vaccine to be shipped immediately and distributed based on each state's population.

ANGIE WAGNER AND DANIEL YEE (AP)

Kids and the flu: Pediatrician Dr. Mark Weissman takes your questions at 2 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Bush Backs Contracts Policy

Says the countries that helped in Iraq should get rebuilding projects



RON EDMONDS/AP

President Bush, meeting with advisers including Secretary of State Colin Powell, said countries that did not send troops to Iraq will be shut out of reconstruction projects.

WASHINGTON | President Bush, under fire from allies, said Thursday that countries that sent troops to Iraq should be entitled to share in the $18 billion in American-financed reconstruction projects while other nations are shut out.

Bush's policy effectively excludes countries such as Russia, France, Germany and Canada.

The president, speaking at a Cabinet meeting, said he still hoped that Russia, France, Germany and others would agree to forgive Iraq's crushing debt burden. But he appeared to make a sharp distinction between countries that sent troops to Iraq and those that didn't.

"It's very simple. Our people risked their lives, friendly coalition folks risked their lives and therefore the contracting is going to reflect that," he said.

Sen. John Kerry, campaigning in his home state of Massachusetts for the Democratic Party's nomination to run against Bush in next year's presidential election, said: "I think limiting contracts ... is an enormous mistake. I think it borders on the stupid."

TERENCE HUNT (AP)

WING WATCH: Taking a lesson from the Columbia disaster, NASA plans to embed sensors in the wings of its three remaining space shuttles to detect any blows from debris, an oversight panel said Thursday. (AP)

Striking Grocery Workers Agree To New Contract

CHARLESTON, W.VA. | Striking Kroger Co. workers in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio ratified a new contract Thursday, ending a two-month standoff with the supermarket chain.

Some 3,300 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 at 44 stores in the three states have been off the job since Oct. 13, when contract negotiations with the company fell apart.

JASON DEPROSPERO/AP

Maurena Radford and her granddaughter spend a final day on the picket line in Morgantown, W.Va., on Thursday.

Under the new contract, Kroger will pay 10.5 percent toward union health benefits, settling one of the main points of disagreement. (AP)

N.D. Student's Mom Seeks Help From Suspect's Mother

GRAND FORKS, N.D. | While officials and friends searched without success for Dru Sjodin, her mother, Linda Walker, went looking for help from the mother of the man charged with kidnapping the missing college student.

Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., 50, of Crookston, Minn., is being held on $5 million bond. Rodriguez has said through his attorney that he had nothing to do with the Nov. 22 disappearance of Sjodin, who is enrolled at the University of North Dakota.

Walker said Dolores Rodriguez did not respond to her request when they spoke Saturday. But she said Dolores Rodriguez and her daughter, Illeana Noyes, were compassionate, expressing concern about Sjodin's safety. (AP)

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Nation

In Brief

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Redistricting Trial Begins

A new Republican-drawn congressional map tramples on the rights of Hispanics and blacks in Texas and should be declared illegal, opponents of the plan argued as a federal trial opened Thursday. Attorneys for the state disputed the allegations from Democrats and minority groups and said the new redistricting plan actually increases minority clout. A three-judge federal panel is hearing the case. Whatever the court rules, an appeal is expected to the U.S. Supreme Court. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Clark to Testify at Former Yugoslav President's Trial

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark is breaking from his presidential campaign on Saturday to travel to the Netherlands to testify in closed session at the U.N. war crimes trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. The Democratic candidate led the 1999 bombing campaign to drive Milosevic out of Kosovo as supreme commander of NATO. Milosevic faces 66 charges of war crimes committed in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo during the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. (AP)

Clark

HONOLULU

Missile Defense System Hits Target During Test

An interceptor missile fired from a Navy ship knocked a target rocket out of the sky over the Pacific on Thursday in the first successful test of a U.S. missile defense system in more than a year, military officials said. In June, an interceptor missile missed the target rocket in a similar test. (AP)

KEY WEST, FLA.

Cubans Convicted in Hijacking

Six Cubans accused of hijacking a passenger plane to Florida were convicted Thursday after failing to convince a jury it was actually a "freedom flight" undertaken with the crew's cooperation. The federal hijacking charges carry a mandatory 20 years in prison. The March 19 incident was the first in a string of hijackings that strained relations between Havana and Washington. (AP)

Pentagon Probe Finds Halliburton Price Hikes

Investigation cites overcharging in fuel prices, source says

WASHINGTON | Pentagon auditors found that Vice President Dick Cheney's former company overcharged by possibly as much as $61 million for gasoline in Iraq, senior defense officials said Thursday.

Halliburton apparently didn't profit from the overcharging, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The problem, the officials said, was that Halliburton paid a subcontractor too much for the gasoline in the first place.

The Pentagon officials said they were concerned about the problems with the contracts, which were awarded to Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root without competitive bidding for up to $15.6 billion.

Some of the Democratic presidential candidates have said the awarding of several no-bid contracts to Halliburton appears to be a political payoff to a firm whose executives were Bush campaign donors. Bush administration and Halliburton officials have denied politics played any role in awarding the contracts to KBR, which also has Pentagon contracts for food service and other support for troops in Iraq and other countries. MATT KELLEY (AP)

IRAQ WAR | FAMILY TIES

TOM BROWN/THE HARTFORD COURANT/AP

OVERCOME: Alex Trouern-Trend, 8, of Marlborough, Conn., is overwhelmed as he watches a convoy of military vehicles, including one containing his father, roll by on Thursday. The troops departed for Fort Drum, N.Y., where they will complete more training before leaving for Iraq in early February.

2 Charged Under New Va. Spam Law

STERLING, VA. | Two North Carolina men were indicted Thursday for flooding the Internet with e-mail pitches for investments, software and other products in what Virginia prosecutors billed as the nation's first felony charges under the state's new anti-spam law.

Jeremy Jaynes, 29, of Raleigh and Richard Rutowski of Cary each face four counts under Virginia's new law barring the use of fraudulent means to transmit unsolicited bulk e-mail popularly referred to as spam, said Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore.

Both men are expected to be extradited to face charges in Loudoun County, Va., where many of the e-mail servers which handled the spam messages are located.

Each man faces up to five years in prison and fines of up to $2,500 on each count if convicted. (AP)

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World

Reporter in Iraq Injured By Grenade

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | A Time magazine reporter suffered severe shrapnel wounds and lost his hand when he tried to throw away a grenade tossed into a Humvee he was riding in, colleagues said Thursday.

Time correspondent Michael Weisskopf and photographer James Nachtwey were traveling with an army patrol in Baghdad Wednesday night when the attack occurred, a statement from a Time editor said.

Time would not offer details on the incident. But a memo sent to Weisskopf's former colleagues at The Washington Post said the grenade exploded, blowing off his hand and wounding him in the chest and arms. The memo said Nachtwey suffered shrapnel wounds that were not as serious. (AP)

COLOMBIA | CIVIL CONFLICT

JUAN HERRERA/AP

WAR DUTY: Soldiers carry the bodies of paramilitaries at an army base near Bogota on Thursday after troops killed 24 of the right-wing fighters. Paramilitaries emerged in the 1980s after government forces failed to stop attacks on wealthy ranchers and businessmen by leftist insurgents.

BY THE NUMBERS: A 96-foot section of the Berlin Wall, one of the few left standing, fetched nearly $210,000 at an auction Thursday. The wall and real estate went to an anonymous bidder from western Germany. (AP)

9/11 Suspect Goes Free in Germany

Evidence could also lead to release of only man convicted in plot

HAMBURG, GERMANY | In a ruling that could lead to the release of the only Sept. 11 plotter convicted so far, Hamburg's high state court on Thursday freed a suspect charged with supporting the Hamburg terror cell because of evidence suggesting he had no knowledge of its plot.

The release came after Germany's Federal Criminal Office submitted a letter to the court stating that an informant last month said only the three suicide hijackers in Hamburg and their alleged al Qaeda liaison knew about the plot.

That evidence undermines the case against Abdelghani Mzoudi, 31, who has been in custody since October 2002. It could also lead to the release of his friend, Mounir el Motassadeq, a fellow Moroccan who is the only Sept. 11 plotter convicted anywhere so far.

Mzoudi

Prosecutors say both men helped the Hamburg cell with logistics.

Prosecutors immediately appealed to the Federal Court of Justice, but a decision was not expected for days. For now, Mzoudi remains free while his trial is recessed for one week.

DAVID RISING (AP)

Reversal of fortune: The high-profile prosecution in Germany takes an unexpected turn | Today's Post: Section A

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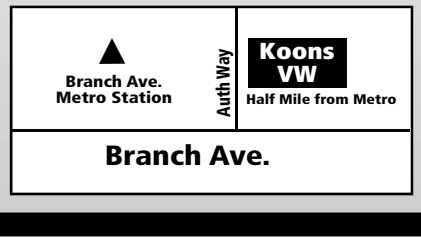

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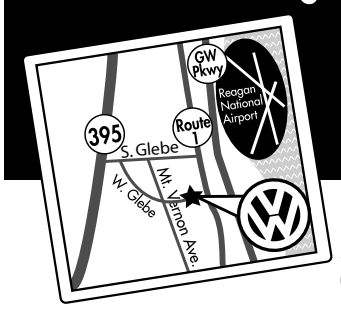

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World

In Brief

AFGHANISTAN

Downbeat U.N. Report Says Recovery Slowed by Warlords

The United Nations warned on Thursday that the government's inability to curb the power of warlords is undermining Afghanistan's shaky recovery. The downbeat assessment came as the world body's refugee agency said it sees no prospect any time soon that it will return to border zones plagued by surging Taliban attacks. (AP)

BALKANS

Kosovo Votes to Invalidate All Milosevic-Era Laws

Kosovo's parliament voted Thursday to make all laws passed during the rule of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic invalid, saying they were discriminatory and lacked legitimacy here. But the top U.N. official, Harri Holkeri, who holds the ultimate authority in the disputed province, quickly declared parliament's move invalid. (AP)

SRI LANKA

U.N. Urges Tamil Tiger Rebels To Release Child Fighters

The U.N. children's fund is seeking the release of more than 1,250 child soldiers believed held by Tamil Tiger rebels despite the group's pledge to return them to their parents, an official said Thursday. Human rights groups accuse the rebels of using underage fighters in their civil war against Sri Lankan forces. (AP)

Nigerians Debate Taylor's Asylum

ABUJA, NIGERIA | Nigeria's House of Representatives plans to debate whether or not former Liberian President Charles Taylor should remain in asylum here, a top official said Thursday.

President Olusegun Obasanjo offered Taylor asylum in August as rebels laid siege to the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

In June, Taylor was indicted by a U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone for his alleged support of rebels who committed brutal atrocities during that country's civil war. Despite pressure for Taylor to face trial, Obasanjo has said he wouldn't turn him over to the U.N. court. (AP)

French Panel Urges Head-Scarf Ban

Chirac to announce next week whether he supports measure

PARIS | A presidential panel concluded Thursday that France should outlaw Islamic head scarves in public schools to halt the burgeoning influence of Muslim fundamentalism and save the values that guide modern-day France.

The conclusions of the panel are at the heart of a wrenching debate in France as to how to integrate its Muslim population, the largest in Western Europe.

The measure — after six months of study and 120 hearings that collected testimony from experts across Europe — would apply mainly to schools and would bar other conspicuous religious symbols, such as Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

French President Jacques Chirac will announce next week whether he supports putting into law the panel's report, aimed at protecting France's cherished secularism.

For nearly 15 years, France has debated whether a law should be promulgated to ban head scarves in public schools. The topic took on new life this year after several girls were expelled from school for refusing to remove head scarves.

ELAINE GANLEY (AP)

URUGUAY | BOTTLED UP

MARCELO HERNANDEZ/AP

LABOR DISPUTE: Sergio Rivera reads during a strike of Coca-Cola carriers in Montevideo on Thursday. The soft drinks have gone undelivered as Coca-Cola Co. of Uruguay and its distributors remain locked in a dispute over wages.

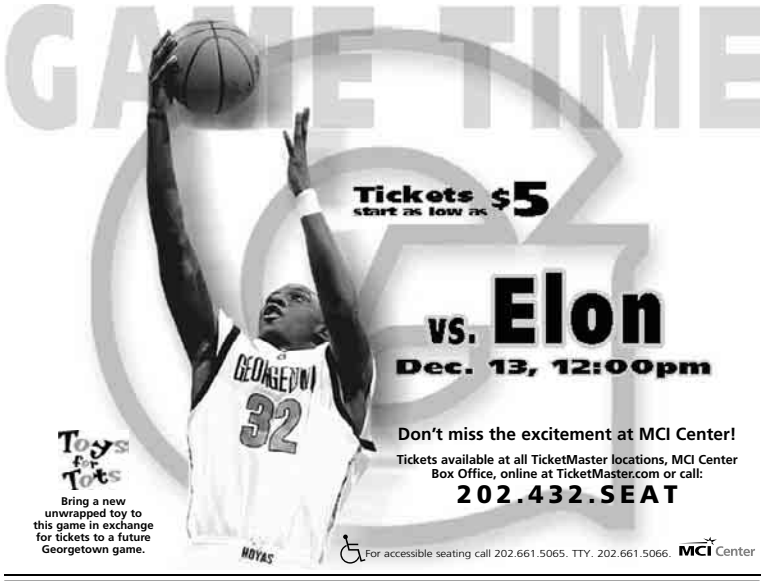
Lithuanian Could Face Impeachment

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA | Lawmakers said Thursday they have the needed signatures to start impeachment proceedings against President Rolandas Paksas, whose office has been accused of having ties to Russian organized crime.

Lawmakers in the 141-seat parliament needed 36 signatures on a draft article of impeachment to start proceedings against Paksas. Lawmaker Eligijus Masiulis said 42 were already gathered.

The allegations center on businessman Yuri Borisov, who officials claim is linked to the Russian mafia. Investigators said Paksas did inappropriate and possibly illegal favors for Borisov, who donated $400,000 to his election campaign. Both men have denied any wrongdoing.

Many in the Western-oriented nation say the affair threatens to spoil the country's reputation just months before it is slated to join the European Union and NATO. (AP)



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Local

Former Md. State Police Chief Pleads Not Guilty

BALTIMORE | Former state police chief Edward Norris pleaded not guilty on Thursday to misusing police funds while Baltimore's police commissioner for liquor, lavish dinners and extramarital affairs.

John Stendrini, Norris's chief of staff while he was Baltimore police commissioner, also pleaded not guilty.

Both requested jury trials and were each released on their own recognizance.

Norris, 43, walked into the courtroom, holding hands with his wife, Kathryn. He stood before U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Gauvey with his hands clasped in front of him and answered "Yes, your honor," when asked if he understood the charges against him.

Outside the courthouse, Norris said he resigned because the state police "needs somebody who's not distracted by legal issues."

"I look forward very much to my day in court," Norris said. BRIAN WITTE (AP)

GAIL BURTON/AP

Edward Norris leaves after entering his not guilty plea on Thursday.

First day: A look at Thomas Hutchins, who took over for Norris Thursday | washingtonpost.com/metro

Malvo's Credibility Called Into Question

CHESAPEAKE, VA. | Was Lee Boyd Malvo lying to police when he said he was the triggerman in last year's sniper killings, or was he lying to psychiatrists when he claimed he served only as John Allen Muhammad's spotter?

Testimony at Malvo's trial Thursday centered on Malvo's credibility on those competing claims. Defense psychiatrists say Malvo was lying when he said he was the shooter because he had been brainwashed by Muhammad and wanted to take the rap for the man he considered his father. The brainwashing claim is the foundation of Malvo's insanity defense.

But prosecutors suggested that Malvo was lying to psychiatrists when he recanted his confession. They questioned defense psychiatrist Neil Blumberg about the defense claim that Malvo was the triggerman in only two killings — the Feb. 16, 2002, death of Keenya Cook in Tacoma, Wash., and the final shooting of the Washington, D.C.-area shooting spree, the Oct. 22, 2002, slaying of bus driver Conrad Johnson in Silver Spring, Md.

Malvo is on trial for the Oct. 14 murder of Linda Franklin. MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Metro Increases Efforts To Increase Future Funding

Metro is stepping up its efforts to get nearly $1.5 billion from the federal government over the next six years. General Manager Richard White said Thursday that the transit agency has been making a good case to Congress that it needs the money to prevent breakdowns and overcrowded trains. According to White, U.S. Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., has indicated he will hold hearings early next year on Metro's money woes. White said current federal legislation could give Metro $600 million, but Metro would need about $900 million more by 2010. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Judge OKs Amtrak Strike

U.S. District Judge James Robertson on Thursday cleared the way for a one-day strike by Amtrak workers, finding that Amtrak failed to prove that the union was planning an "unlawful act." Both MARC and Virginia Railway Express said Thursday a walkout would certainly affect their operations. Unions representing nearly one-third of Amtrak's employees had planned a one day strike on Oct. 3, to protest what they claim is a lack of support for the railroad from Congress and the White House. But, the unions agreed to wait for a court ruling on the railroad's request for an injunction. (AP)

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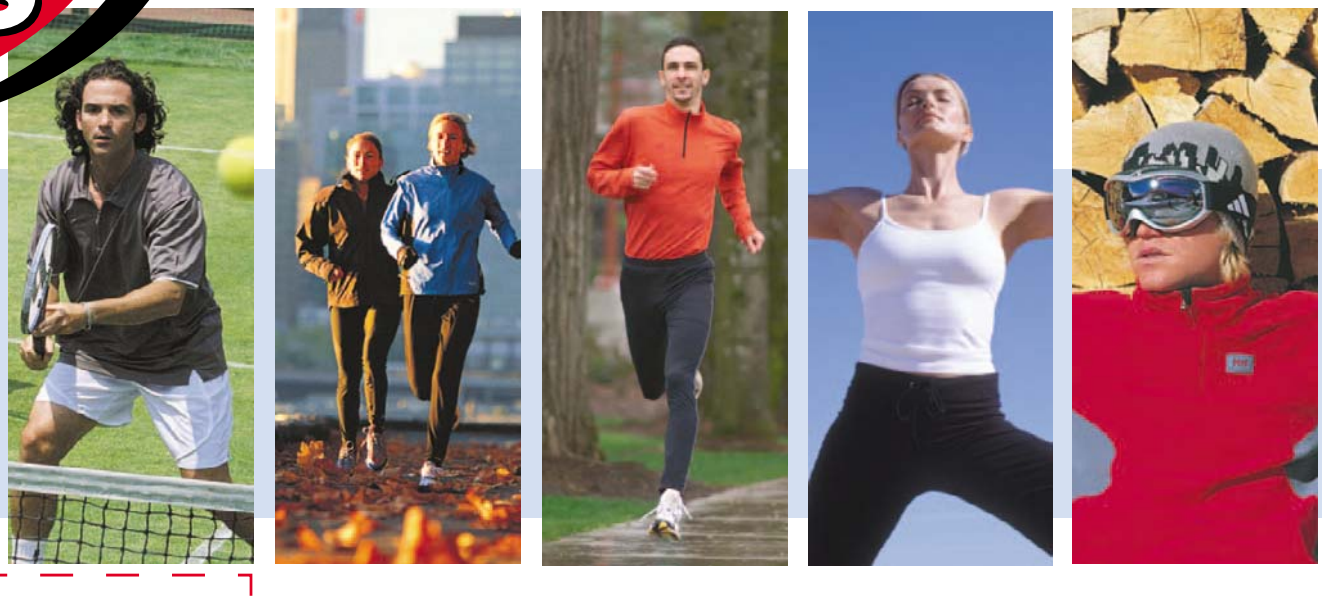

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Money

Feds Warn of Counterfeit Hazards

WASHINGTON | Federal officials warned Thursday about counterfeit goods such as extension cords and Christmas lights that could pose a hazard during the holidays.

"Counterfeit products do not meet any standards of safety," said Michael Garcia, assistant secretary of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Batteries are known to drip acid, power cords and wires are known to burst into flames."

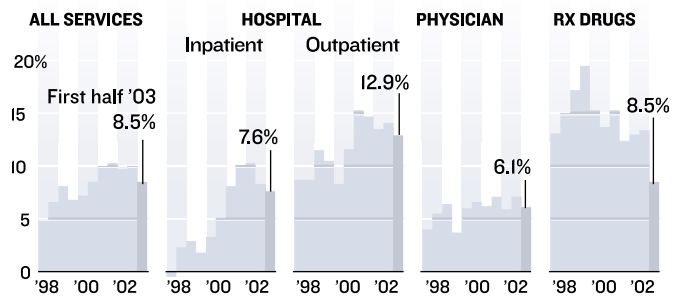
During testing, power strips and extension cords seized in a recent bust by federal agents in Houston melted, shot off sparks and erupted into flames within minutes.

Hal Stratton, chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, said electrical cords and plugs were involved in 6,700 fires in 1998 — the most recent year for which figures were available. Those fires resulted in 80 deaths. (AP)

Spending Less on Health Care

Americans spent less on all forms of health care in the first half of 2003 with prescription drug spending dropping the most.

Per capita health care spending biannual percent change



SOURCE: HSC Research AP

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
CitzComm	12.50	+2.15	+20.8
IkonOffSol	10.55	+1.75	+19.9
AllegTch	10.71	+1.71	+19.0
MdwExp	4.10	+.49	+13.6
Titan Intl	2.50	+.30	+13.6

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Goodyear	6.52	-.84	-11.4
Footstar	3.72	-.45	-10.8
GiantIn	11.09	-1.28	-10.3
CKE Rst	6.10	-.65	-9.6
Unisys	14.44	-1.46	-9.2

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
LanVision	3.89	+1.54	+65.5
PaulaFn	2.05	+.64	+45.4
EnPointe	2.50	+.75	+42.9
SmithMicro	2.40	+.61	+34.1
RF Inds	5.44	+1.12	+25.9

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
MinorpIn rs	2.66	-.50	-15.8
Neoform rs	10.90	-1.81	-14.2
Highvld	2.07	-.27	-11.5
Zanett	2.51	-.31	-11.0
ID Sys	6.50	-.75	-10.3

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+86.30	+37.67	+12.16
+0.87	+1.98	+1.15
10008.16	1942.32	1071.21

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Allergan	73.98	-.12	+28.4
AstraZen	46.05	+.24	+31.2
BarrLab s	74.47	-1.53	+71.6
BrMySq	26.21	+.29	+13.2
ForestLb s	58.50	+.90	+19.1
IvaxCp	22.60	+.80	+86.3
JohnJn	50.00	-.25	-6.9
LillyEli	71.80	+1.40	+13.1
Merck	43.60	+.45	-18.6
Mylan s	25.21	+.31	+62.5
Pfizer	34.68	+.58	+13.4
SchergPl	16.81	+.51	-24.3
ShirePh	26.40	+.19	+39.8
WatsnPh	44.48	+.09	+57.3
Wyeth	39.01	+.67	+4.3

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00
Fed Funds close	1.00	1.00
3-month	0.88	0.90
2-year	1.79	2.04
10-year	4.24	4.37
30-year	5.10	5.17

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5728	.5734	.6342
Canadian Dollar	1.3181	1.3068	1.5555
European Euro	.8204	.8183	.9917
Japanese Yen	107.99	108.26	123.62
Mexican Peso	11.1250	11.2230	10.1887
Taiwanese Dollar	34.04	34.03	34.86

Ex-WorldCom Exec Sidgmore Dies at Age 52

WASHINGTON | John Sidgmore, the WorldCom executive who helped reveal the accounting troubles that led to the biggest bankruptcy filing in U.S. history, died Thursday at 52.

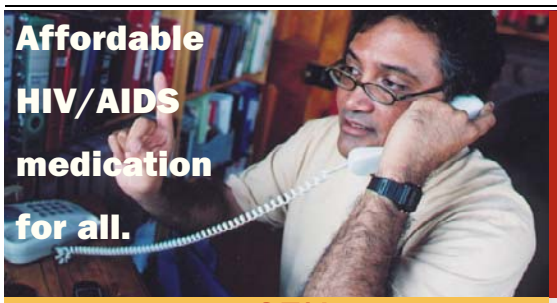
He died of complications associated with acute pancreatitis, said B. Jay Cooper, a family spokesman.

Sidgmore was named president of WorldCom in April 2002 and disclosed the company's accounting errors just weeks later. He resigned from the company in December of that year but continued to work with WorldCom as a consultant.

Sidgmore

Sidgmore had been vice chairman of WorldCom's board when the company was involved in an accounting shell game to make it appear more profitable.

He is survived by his wife Randi and his son Michael. (AP)



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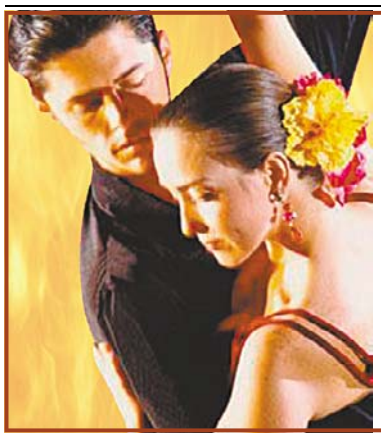

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SMART DRIVERS TALK SAFELY

Sports

LIVE ONLINE

The Capitals

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Washington Post staff writer **JASON LA CANFORA** was online Thursday discussing the Capitals' decision to fire coach Bruce Cassidy.

Now that Bruce Cassidy is gone, do you think the Caps can now get organized and act like a team again? That way, they can get some W's on the board, especially at home, and get the fans back into the game.

They had better, because time is running out. They need a significant unbeaten streak — seven or eight games — to get back in this thing, but have some tough opponents coming to town. They used to be great at MCI Center and need to get that mojo back.

I understand there had been friction between several of the players and Bruce Cassidy. Does new coach Glen Hanlon have a better rapport with the players and, if so, would you expect to see an improvement in the teams' performance because of this factor or are the problems deeper than this?

I believe Glen has sort of been the good cop in the coaching staff the last two years and, from being in the organization for five years now, has built solid relationships with many players, both young and old. Whether the team can translate this new era of good feelings into more wins and losses remains to be seen.

It appears that Ted Leonsis's five-year plan to resurrect the Caps has failed. They don't win, they have a huge financial obligation to a non-performing Jaromir Jagr, ticket sales are dismal, several of Leonsis's partners have sold their shares in the team and he is in a bitter ego battle with his landlord (and other business partner), Abe Pollin.

Not much to disagree with, unfortunately. Until this team clears some payroll and is in a position to fill some of its needs (read: a quality defenseman or two or three) things appear to be pretty bleak.

Fresh start: The Capitals start the Glen Hanlon-era against the Boston Bruins | washingtonpost.com/sports

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Andy Pettitte shows off his new gigs after signing with the Houston Astros.

Pettitte Chooses Astros Over Yanks

PRO BASEBALL | Andy Pettitte chose home over history, agreeing Thursday to sign with the Houston Astros and leave the New York Yankees.

New York wasted little time finding a replacement, agreeing to the outline of a tentative trade with Los Angeles that would bring Kevin Brown to New York in exchange for Jeff Weaver, two baseball officials said on the condition of anonymity.

The Yankees would send Los Angeles two minor leaguers and $3 million.

Pettitte accepted Houston's $31.5 million, three-year deal after weighing a new offer from the Yankees on Wednesday night. He took $7.5 million less to sign with the Astros. (AP)

Smoot Becomes a Leader

PRO FOOTBALL | Something funny has happened to Fred Smoot. Or, rather, something unfunny.

He's no longer the nonstop class cutup of the Washington Redskins. Sure, he still trash-talks and zings some one-liners, but he's developed a serious side — and he's been playing better than ever — since returning from a serious chest injury.

"I feel like I'm growing up in the team a lot, and soon I will be one of the serious leaders on the team," Smoot said. "You know, ain't nobody ever going to stop me from talking. I'm just talking more maturely."

Smoot broke his sternum and bruised his chest while tackling Keyshawn Johnson on Oct. 12.

Smoot missed only one game. An unexpected side effect has been his improved play, which has been easy to overlook on a team that has lost seven of nine games. Said fellow cornerback Champ Bailey with a smile: "He has been playing better — maybe he needs to get hurt more often." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

PRESTON KERES/TWP

Fred Smoot (21) intercepts a pass during a loss to the Eagles on October 5.

So many choices: In anticipation of Sunday's game between Washington and Dallas, vote for your most-hated Cowboy | washingtonpost.com/sports

Upstart Bengals Likely to Stay in The Playoff Hunt

PRO FOOTBALL | The Cincinnati Bengals are the NFL's feel-good story this season. The San Francisco 49ers are the most puzzling team: 6-1 at home, 0-6 on the road.

It's little wonder that the Bengals are favored by three points when the 49ers come to town Sunday.

Considering the disparity between the way San Francisco plays at home and on the road, that spread isn't much.

In six road losses, the 49ers have allowed an average of 27 points. In seven home games, they've outscored the opposition 219-82.

The Bengals will win 27-12.

DAVE GOLDBERG (AP)

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- **St. Louis (-7)** 31, Seattle 20
- **Dallas (pick 'em)** 20, Washington 10
- **Carolina (-6)** 20, Arizona 15
- **Kansas City (-14)** 31, Detroit 10
- **Tampa Bay (off)** 27, Houston 13
- **Baltimore (-6)** 16, Oakland 3
- **Indy (-7.5)** 29, Atlanta 20
- **Chicago (+1.5)** 20, Minnesota 19
- **Green Bay (-5)** 34, San Diego 17
- **New England (-7)** 17, Jacksonville 2
- **Tennessee (-6.5)** 22, Buffalo 17
- **Denver (-10)** 19, Cleveland 13
- **Pittsburgh (+3)** 26, New York Jets 20
- **New Orleans (-7.5)** 30, New York Giants 7

Odds are in parentheses. "Off" means the game is off the betting boards.

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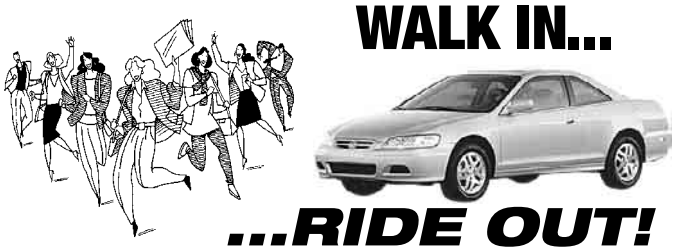

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Sports

Manning Seeks Family's First Heisman Trophy

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Moments before one of Mississippi's biggest games of the season, Eli Manning gathered his teammates on the sideline for a fiery pep talk. Television cameras caught the Ole Miss quarterback screaming over the din of a huge crowd at Auburn, surrounded by antsy Rebels.

By returning for his senior season, Manning became a better player. Maybe just as important for the resurgent Rebels, he became a more forceful leader. For carrying No. 16 Ole Miss to its best season in more than a decade, Manning is a Heisman Trophy finalist.

He is the third member of his family to be in the running for the Heisman. When dad, Archie, was the star quarterback for Ole Miss, he finished fourth in the Heisman voting as a junior in 1969 and third as a senior. Big brother, Peyton, lost one of the closest Heisman races ever to Michigan's Charles Woodson in 1997. RALPH D. RUSSO (AP)

ROGELIO SOLIS/FILE/AP

Mississippi's Eli Manning is one of four finalists for the Heisman Trophy.

Perry Set Records Despite Mom's Pain

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Chris Perry is a candidate for the Heisman Trophy because he does it all — rushing, catching and blocking — for the fourth-ranked Michigan Wolverines.

With power, speed and elusive cuts, he has run for 1,589 yards, ranking fourth in the nation. Perry has also caught 42 passes, a Michigan record for a running back.

He achieved those numbers after learning just prior to the season that his mother had breast cancer.

Irene Perry canceled her fourth chemotherapy session last week when she was told about Perry's chances of winning the Heisman.

"I had to reschedule it because I am not going to miss this opportunity if he's blessed enough to get it," she said Monday. "The Heisman is like the Oscars of college football." LARRY LAGE (AP)

CARLOS OSORIO/FILE/AP

Michigan's Chris Perry proved he could run and catch the ball well this year.

Awards season: The Post's Matt Bonesteel and Matt Rennie give their picks for who should win the Heisman Trophy | washingtonpost.com/liveonline at noon.

Weekend's TV Lineup

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (8 p.m. Saturday on ESPN) The Heisman Trophy awards presentation.

PRO BASKETBALL (7 p.m. Friday on Comcast) The Washington Wizards host the Minnesota Timberwolves.

PRO HOCKEY (7 p.m. Saturday on Comcast) The Washington Capitals host the Detroit Red Wings.

PRO FOOTBALL (4 p.m. Sunday on Fox) The Redskins try to hand the Dallas Cowboys their third straight loss.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Noon Saturday on ESPN) The No. 1 Florida Gators look to rebound from Wednesday's loss when playing Louisville.

Sibling Revelry

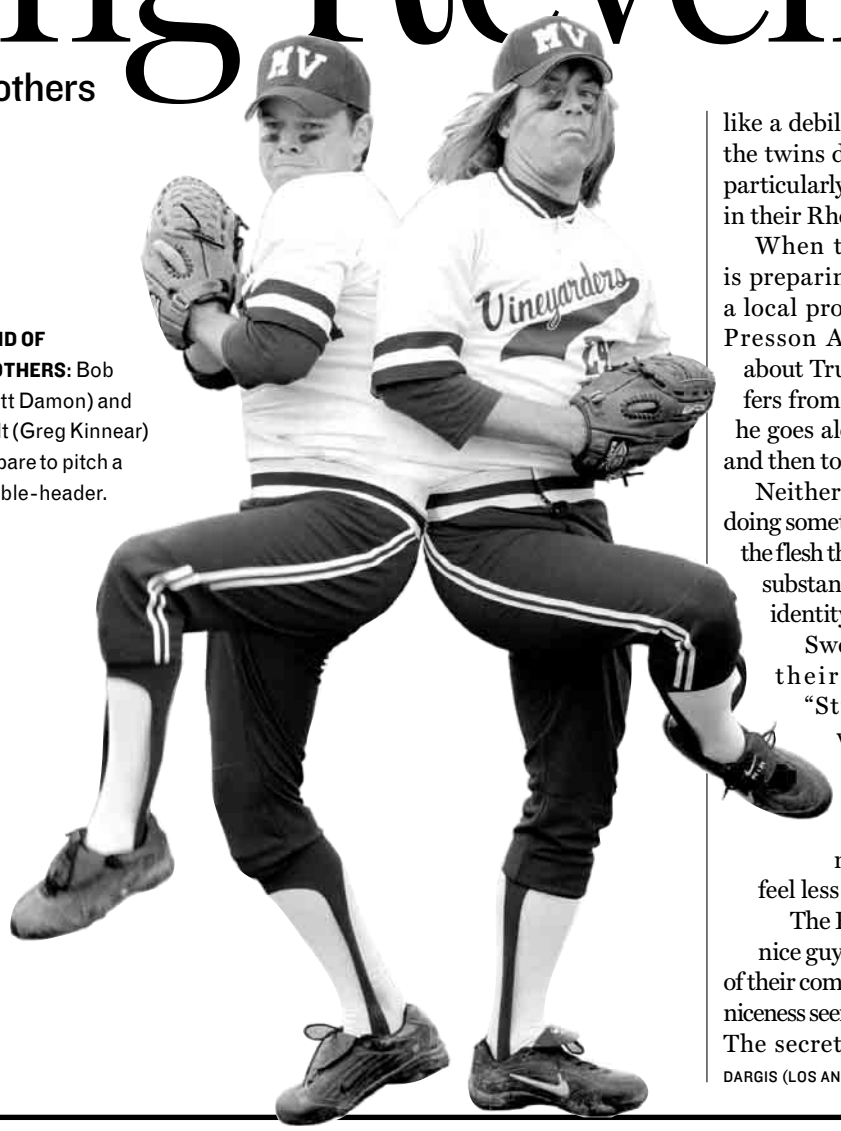
A kinder, gentler Farrelly brothers

FILM | It's become tougher than ever to make people laugh without goring somebody's bull. Even the crown princes of incorrect waggery, Bobby and Peter Farrelly, seem on the defensive.

So it's nice to report that while much of the unlikely charm of the Farrellys' newest comedy, "Stuck on You," comes from its conceptual purity, much of the film's humor comes from its blissful impurity.

Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear star as the conjoined Bob and Walt. Reluctant to risk an operation, the brothers have resigned themselves to living as each other's shadow, a restriction they have surmounted with the coordinated grace of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers or Beavis and Butt-head, depending on the smut factor. For while many of the film's blushingly funny bits are of the Playboy joke-page variety, its smartest stuff pivots on contemporary attitudes toward humor.

One of the things that gives the Farrellys a modern tang is how they play with the concept of political correctness. To most of the world, Bob and Walt's physical quirk looks like a debilitating hindrance. But the twins don't see themselves as particularly different from anyone in their Rhode Island town.



BAND OF BROTHERS: Bob (Matt Damon) and Walt (Greg Kinnear) prepare to pitch a double-header.

When the film opens, Walt is preparing for his star turn in a local production of "Tru," Jay Presson Allen's one-man play about Truman Capote. Bob suffers from acute stage fright, but he goes along with Walt onstage and then to Los Angeles.

Neither brother can imagine doing something without the other; the flesh that binds them is the very substance of their being — their identity.

Sweeter and softer than their earlier comedies, "Stuck on You" has the vibe of a transitional work. There's a kind of shambling easiness to the scenes, which makes the whole thing feel less frantic than usual.

The Farrellys come across as nice guys, but part of the genius of their comedy is how they've made niceness seem like a dirty little secret. The secret is out. MANOHLA DARGIS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

JIM SHELDON/AP

Paris (Christina Milian) and Alvin (Nick Cannon) bond over hair products.

A High Price to Pay

FILM | "Love Don't Cost a Thing" shares its title with the name of a Jennifer Lopez song, but Lopez is nowhere to be found here. Her ex-boyfriend, Sean "Puffy" Combs, however, is all over the place.

The high-school kids in the movie either wear or covet his clothing line, Sean John. And when nerdy Alvin (Nick Cannon) undergoes a makeover and becomes popular — thanks to cheerleader Paris (Christina Milian) — the fact that he's wearing a Sean John sweatshirt gives him cachet. Puffy's "Pass the Courvoisier" plays at a beach party, and Paris's friend Zoe (Melissa Schuman) was a member of Dream, Puffy's all-girl pop group.

While all this is conspicuous and shameless, it's the least of the movie's problems.

"Love Don't Cost a Thing" is a remake of the 1987 teen comedy "Can't Buy Me Love." Director Troy Beyer remains faithful to the original film with help from "Can't Buy Me Love" writer Michael Swerdlick, with whom she co-wrote the script. They haven't breathed much new life into the movie — nerdy boy gets makeover, abandons his friends and gets his comeuppance and the girl — so much as shuffled its components around.

In this time of heady Oscar-bait fare, "Love" is one of the few movies aimed squarely at teens. One can only imagine what will come out this time next year — perhaps a remake of "License to Drive," starring the Olsen twins and Lil' Romeo. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

TWO THUMBS UP? Or 10 toes? Get the verdict on the latest film releases in today's Washington Post.

Hurricane Hugo: Documentary filmmakers find themselves filming in the middle of a Venezuelan coup. Desson Thomson reviews "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised." | *Weekend*

The Light Stuff: It may not be the deepest piece of filmmaking out there, but a brilliant cast and an amusing script make up for a lot. Stephen Hunter reviews "Something's Gotta Give." | *Style*

A 'Cry' for Help: A documentary about oppression and genocide in Tibet breaks the heart. Desson Thomson reviews "Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion." | *Weekend*

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

The Going Out Gurus of Got Plans? think you should get out more. Get in on the discussion every Thursday at 1 p.m.

Do you know where you can get real hot chocolate? Thanks.
We have had some of the best hot choc ever at Kingsbury Chocolates in Old Town. And while you're there, chomp down a rose truffle.

Kingsbury Chocolates, 1017 King St., Alexandria; 703-548-2800.

Re: hot chocolate. My favorite new hot chocolate place is Wolfgang Puck's little restaurant in Pentagon Row. And it's only 99 cents.
Nice tip!

Wolfgang Puck Express, Army Navy Drive and S. Joyce St., Arlington; 703-412-3552. (Pentagon City)

RICHARD GREENHOUSE

Puanani Brown of the Washington Ballet makes a sprightly Clara.

I'm taking my girlfriend to see "The Nutcracker" at the Warner. Do you have suggestions for a good place to eat before the show?
Theater-dining suggestions galore at www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment.

Hey Gurus. Big sister is coming to town. Her only instructions: "No 'blue martini' bars." Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.
What about Continental? That'll give her a chance to see how things on your side of the river have changed.

1911 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Arlington; 703-465-7675. (Rosslyn)

Continued on page 17

Entertainment

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

PUFF KIDDIES

'TWAS THE FIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (Fri., 9 p.m., Cartoon Network) This Powerpuff Girls holiday special — a little padded at one hour — features the sophisticated graphic design that has made this series a delight.

"Fight" pits the girls against their nemesis Princess Morbucks. The rich and spoiled kindergartner jets to the North Pole to make sure that Santa grants her Christmas wish to become the fourth Powerpuff Girl. Once there, she discovers that she's on Santa's "naughty" list. Princess mixes up Santa's files, dooming the good kids in the world to stockings filled with coal. Naturally, it's up to Townsville's troika of bug-eyed heroines to save the day.

ALSO THE WORD 'TREND'

UFO INVASION AT RENDLESHAM (Fri., 9 p.m., Sci-Fi) Bryant Gumbel hosts a look at an alleged alien visitation at a U.S. military base in England in 1980. Wow, a UFO documentary with the word "sham" right there in the title!

RUPERT'S REVENGE

SURVIVOR (Sun., 8 p.m., CBS) No matter who leaves with the loot after the finale, Jon emerges as one of the most detestable contestants ever to play the game. Johnny Fairplay (as he refers to himself) mixed deviousness, laziness and crude misogyny to earn the wrath of just about everybody on Earth. The whole gang of castaways reconvenes for the "Survivor Reunion" (10 p.m.).

HAWAII IS FOREIGN, RIGHT?

THE GOLDEN GLOBES: HOLLYWOOD'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET (Sun., 9 p.m., Trio) Viewers with a healthy skepticism about Hollywood ballyhoo should not miss this cheeky film, which exposes the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the peculiar organization behind the Globes. Many members aren't foreign. Most have never written a word of film criticism. And at least one of them runs an auto supply business to supplement his income. But even as one professional critic dismisses them as embarrassing celebrity hounds and "idiots," he thinks they often make better choices than Oscar voters.

CBS/UFS

CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE: The round-headed kid, his friends and his dog.

IT'S NO 'EIGHT CRAZY DAYS'

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS (Sat., 8 p.m., ABC) Featuring neurotic children, a delusional dog, modern jazz, Beethoven and frequent references to psychiatry, this 1965 animated special could never get produced today. It would be dismissed as both overly sophisticated and too religious. And that's what makes it a masterpiece. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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Entertainment

GotPlans?

Continued from page 15

Where can I find cooking classes to give as a gift? I'd like to attend with the person I am giving them to. Ethnic or dessert would be great. We hear good things about the ones Lebanese Taverna hosts. Amernick bakery is also offering classes.

www.lebanesetaverna.com. Amernick, 202-537-5855.

JASON HOROWITZ

A hunka burnin' roast: Someone's in the kitchen with Elvis (Rick Foucheux).

I just started dating a new guy and don't know what to get him for Christmas. I was thinking tickets to a show. What would be a good show that's on in January? "Cooking With Elvis" might be fun, and we like Craig Wright, the playwright behind "Melissa Arctic." "George Gershwin Alone" was well-received last year at Ford's. Another option is "Psyche in Love," a new Wendy Wasserstein play that will be staged in January by Theater J.

Cooking With Elvis, AFI, Kennedy Center; 202-785-4600.

Melissa Arctic, Folger Theatre; 202-544-7077.

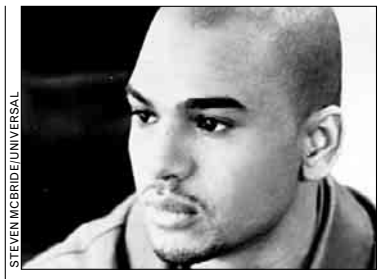
George Gershwin Alone, Ford's Theater; 202-347-4833

Psyche in Love, DCJCC; 202-518-9400.

I'm looking for a nice bar with a nice atmosphere that plays hip-hop/soul. Not necessarily a club. Juste Lounge has live music several times a week these days. Chico DeBarge will be there on Friday. Toka has both DJs and performers.

Juste Lounge, 1015 1/2 7th St. NW; 202-393-3909. (Gallery Place)

Toka Cafe, 1140 19th St. NW; 202-429-8652. (Farragut West)



STEVEN MCBRIDE/UNIVERSAL

Chico DeBarge, in a pensive mood, contemplates his upcoming Juste gig.

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LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (12:10 3:00)6:10 9:00
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG–13) (12:30 3:20)6:30 9:20
TIMELINE (PG–13) (12:20 3:30)6:40 9:40
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) (12:40 3:40)6:50 9:10

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STATION AGENT (R) (2:00 4:30)7:15 9:30
LOST IN TRANSLATION (R) (1:45 4:15)7:00 9:15

CINEPLEX ODEON SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 SOUTH RANDOLPH 703-671-0978
21 GRAMS (R) (1:50 4:40)7:30 10:10
LOST IN TRANSLATION (R) (2:00 4:10)6:30 9:00
MYSTIC RIVER (R) (1:10 4:00)7:00 9:50
IN AMERICA (PG–13) (1:30 4:20)7:10 9:30
STATION AGENT (R) (1:20 3:40)6:50 9:10
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (1:00 3:50)6:40 9:40 (1:40 4:30)7:20 10:00

LOEWS WHEATON PLAZA 11
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★ LOVE DON'T COST (PG–13) (12:15 2:40 5:00)7:20 9:45
★ LAST SAMURAI (R) (12:10 3:30)6:40 9:50
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG–13) (12:30 3:20)6:45 9:40
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (12:20 3:10)6:10
THE MISSING (R) 9:10
CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (2:30 4:35)7:10
TIMELINE (PG–13) 10:00
★ HONEY (PG–13) (1:50 4:10)7:00 9:30
ELF (PG) (1:30 3:50)6:20 8:30
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) (12:00 2:10 4:20)6:40 9:00
BAD SANTA (R) (12:50 3:20 5:30)7:50 10:10
★ SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE (PG–13) (12:40 3:40)6:35 9:35
★ STUCK ON YOU (PG–13) (1:00 4:00)6:50 9:20

CINEPLEX ODEON INNER CIRCLE 3
2301 M STREET, N.W.
M M FOGGY BOTTOM 202-972-9556
PIECES OF APRIL (PG–13) (4:50)7:20 9:50
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) (4:30)7:00 9:30
DIE, MOMMIE, DIE! (R) (4:40)7:10 9:40

CINEPLEX ODEON TYSONS FAIRFAX SQUARE
8065 LEESBURG PIKE 703-506-9857
THE MISSING (R) 9:30
CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (12:20 2:30 4:30)6:40
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) (DTS DIGITAL) (12:00 2:00 4:00)6:50 9:10
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG–13) (DTS DIGITAL) (12:10 3:00) 6:30 9:20
LAST SAMURAI (R) (DTS DIGITAL) (11:30 2:50)6:10 9:25
ELF (PG) (DTS DIGITAL) (11:50 2:20 5:10)7:20 9:50
SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE (PG–13) (11:20 2:10 4:50)7:25 10:00
STUCK ON YOU (PG–13) (11:40 2:25 5:00)7:30 9:55
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (11:55 2:40)6:20 9:40

CINEPLEX ODEON DUPONT CIRCLE 5
1350 19TH STREET, NW
M DUPONT CIRCLE 202-972-9556
SHATTERED GLASS (PG–13) (1:40 5:00)7:20 9:30
MYSTIC RIVER (R) (12:50 3:50)6:50 9:50
KILL BILL VOLUME I (R) (2:00 4:30)7:10 9:40
IN AMERICA (PG–13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (1:20 3:40)6:30 9:00 (1:50 4:10)7:00 9:20

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LOEWS GEORGETOWN
3111 K STREET, N.W.
enjoytheshow.com/georgetown 202-342-6033
SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE (PG–13) (12:40 3:30)6:30 9:20 12:10
STUCK ON YOU (PG–13) (1:20 4:20)7:00 9:50 12:15
LAST SAMURAI (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:30 2:10 3:40 5:20) 6:50 8:30 10:00 11:40
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:10 3:00) 6:10 7:30 9:00 10:20 12:00
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG–13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:20 2:40 3:20)6:20 8:40 9:30 12:20
21 GRAMS (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (11:50 1:00 4:30 5:40) 7:40 10:30 11:50
BAD SANTA (R) (12:00 2:50 5:30)8:10 10:40
ELF (PG) (2:30 5:10)7:50 10:10 12:25
GOTHIKA (R) (1:30 3:50 5:50)8:20 10:50
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) (2:00 4:50)7:10 9:40 11:55
CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (1:50 4:00)
THE MISSING (R) (1:10)9:10 12:05
TIMELINE (PG–13) (4:10)6:40

CINEPLEX ODEON UPTOWN
3426 CONNECTICUT AVE. - NW 1/2 BLOCK SOUTH
M CLEVELAND PARK 202-966-8805
LORD OF THE RINGS 2 (PG–13) (2:00)7:30

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WHO WHAT WHERE | WHEN | WHY

"… He's not the Hulk I remember, he's King Kong on nuclear bananas …

… I could go on and on … but who has that much time on earth? …

…Those pounding hooves might as well be going: *metaphor metaphor metaphor metaphor* …"

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MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1105 200 500) 810
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (NR) DIG (1140 340) 720
HONEY (PG-13) DIG (1115 1200 140 230 405 455) 715 800 935 1030
LAST SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1110 1210 110 235 335 440) 605 705 805 930 1025
CAT IN THE HAT (PG) DIG (1125 145 400) 710 920
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) DIG (1145 1250 255 355) 610 700 925 1005
GOTHIKA (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1155 220 445) 750 1020
TIMELINE (PG-13) DIG 725 1010
BROTHER BEAR (G) DIG (1235 250 505)

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13
Rockville Town Center (301) 340-9390 800-FANDANGO 2488
Adv. Tix on Sale LORD OF RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13) ★
LOVE DON'T COST (PG-13) (1210 250 530) 810 1045
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) (1145 1245 300 400) 700 800 1020
STUCK ON YOU (PG-13) ★ (1205 315) 705 1010
HONEY (PG-13) (1135 220 450) 735 1015
LAST SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 100 345 445) 745 815 1130 1200
BAD SANTA (R) - ID REQ'D (105 340) 725 955 1235
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) (1140 215 500) 730 1000
THE MISSING (R) - ID REQ'D 1145
TIMELINE (PG-13) 1240
CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (1130 200 440) 715
GOTHIKA (R) - ID REQ'D 945 1230
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (1150 310) 710 1025
ELF (PG) (1155 230 525) 805 1040
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 425) 750 1115

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7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#
Adv. Tix on Sale LORD OF RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13) ★
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) DIG (110 410) 720 1020
STUCK ON YOU (PG-13) DIG ★ (120 420) 715 1010
LAST SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1220 340) 700 1020
LAST SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D (100 430) 800
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1250 400) 710 1025
ELF (PG) (140 440) 735 1005
MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (1240 350) 705 1015
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) (1220 240 500) 740 1000
THE MISSING (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 725 1030
CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (1225 235 450) 730 945

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– Leah Rozen, PEOPLE

"★★★★ IN AMERICA is touching...uplifting...and also just plain funny. 'In America' is a classic..."
– *Claudia Puig*, USA TODAY

"Superb performances"
– Stephen Hunter, THE WASHINGTON POST

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– Richard Roeper, EBERT & ROEPER

"★★★★" – Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
"★★★★" – Megan Lehmann, NEW YORK POST

IN AMERICA

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Entertainment

The Horse Can Do

DVD | The story of "Seabiscuit," about a down-and-out racehorse, became an allegory for American's triumph over adversity during the Great Depression. The film of that story comes to DVD and VHS on Tuesday, just in time to find its way under many Christmas trees.

The movie stars Tobey Maguire as the jockey, Chris Cooper as the trainer and Jeff Bridges as the businessman who, with Seabiscuit, took the nation on a ride of a lifetime. Gary Ross directed the film that shows how Seabiscuit became a household name, drawing huge crowds to his races.

The DVD includes footage of actual races as well as a breakdown of how a film is made from a novel (Laura Hillenbrand's "Seabiscuit"), from script to costumes to casting. Bonus material in the two-disc gift set includes film of Seabiscuit's 1938 match race with War Admiral; a "Winner's Circle" featurette; the highly lauded "The True Story of Seabiscuit" documentary; and HBO's "First Look." MARTIE ZAD (AP)

FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/UNIVERSAL/REUTERS

It's Seabiscuit and human by a nose!

Sunday in The Washington Post

Games People Play
It's a wilderness of video games and gaming accessories out there; clip and keep this guide to gaming goods. | *Sunday Source*

Paper Treasures
Holiday picture books, young adult reading, dark sci-fi and more in a roundup of children's reading. | *Book World*

Greedings From D.C.
Too much luxe stuff is not enough for some local conspicuous consumers, nor for capuchin monkeys. Are top-end acquisitors just fulfilling a biological destiny? | *The Washington Post Magazine*

Seriously ... Ascots?

BOOKS | Carson Kressley, fashion sage on the cable TV show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," will write a book on men's fashion to be published by Dutton in fall 2004.

The book, not yet titled, will feature Kressley's "inimitable trademark wit and fashion wisdom," and "will cover the simple sartorial staples of style — from ascots to zippers," Dutton said in a statement Tuesday.

Kressley

"From the 10 shoes every man should own, to the final word on whether it is boxers or briefs, Carson explains in four-color detail exactly how a man can make the most of his look," the publisher said. The announcement was made by Carole Baron, president of Dutton.

"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" airs on Bravo. (AP)

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Entertainment

Now Playing

FOR COMPLETE FILM CAPSULES SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews by The Washington Post's Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter.

BAD SANTA (R, 93 minutes) For good or ill, "Bad Santa" has been demographically engineered for the smallest interest group in America: those who hate Christmas. These people occupy a psychological state that might be called "generally unhappy unhappiness," and they will love Bad Santa (played by Billy Bob Thornton) with his cheerful blasphemy and the delight he takes in the trashing of all that is dear, sweet and holy. (SH)

BUS 174 (Unrated, 122 minutes) Assembled from the countless hours of tape the TV boys got on the day a young hostage-taker commandeered a Rio de Janeiro bus, and from interviews with those connected to the case, this documentary is as riveting as any action movie ever made— even if the action is of the squalid, unchoreographed sort that leaves blood puddles on the streets and holes in families. (SH)

THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG, 73 minutes) It's so good it breaks your heart for not being better. It's kept from brilliance by a soggy climax and a clumsy central narrative. But 9-year-old Dakota Fanning is breathtakingly fresh and funny, in ways that are astounding. (SH)

GOTHIKA (R, 95 minutes) An undistinguished piece of post-summer, pre-holiday detritus, despite the presence of such terrific actors as Penelope Cruz, Robert Downey Jr. and Charles S. Dutton. As a prison psychiatrist embroiled in a murder, Halle Berry slogs her way through this unsavory experience, generating sympathy if not interest. (AH)

THE HAUNTED MANSION (PG, 98 minutes) If Disney's latest attempt at using its movies to market its other corporate endeavors isn't exactly brimming with originality and wit, neither does it succumb entirely to cynicism. It's perfectly palatable family fare. (AH)

HONEY (PG-13, 98 minutes) A derivative star-and-soundtrack vehicle assembled from the spare parts of "Fame," "Flashdance" and "Saturday Night Fever." The point, it seems, is to sell Jessica Alba as a bona fide movie star. The camera clearly loves her, but her lack of dance experience — in a dance-driven film— shows. (AH)

Alba

IN AMERICA (PG-13, 100 minutes) With a title like "In America," Jim Sheridan sounds like one of those generic encomiums to immigrant pluck, luck and guts. Thank God it's not that. It's far too specific, too odd, too funny, too unusual to fit any mold other than its own. (SH)

THE LAST SAMURAI (R, 144 minutes) Director Edward Zwick desperately aspires to become Akira Kurosawa, and "The Last Samurai" is wannabe-ism on a multimillion-dollar scale. But under its beauty, its lush production values and its superficial spell of enchantment, the film feels lame and thin, wan and stale. Movies set in a period of Japanese history should not be about handsome white people. It just feels wrong and, in the end, leaves in your mouth the taste of desecration. (SH)

REUTERS

Tom Cruise as samurai/soldier Algren.

MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD (PG-13, 138 minutes) This ultra-handsome film comprises too many equal parts, and they tangle each other up. Everything is important, so nothing is important. It seems fated to disappoint everyone except the slick magazines that put it on their covers. (SH)

THE MISSING (R, 130 minutes) Directed by Ron Howard with assurance and taste — and some lack of imagination, "The Missing" harks back to the epic Westerns of John Ford like "The Searchers." Even through an overlong running time, Tommy Lee Jones and Cate Blanchett have no trouble taking firm hold of the screen. (AH)

STEPHEN VAUGHAN

Francis O'Connor and Paul Walker

TIMELINE (PG-13, 116 minutes) "Timeline," starring Paul Walker and Francis O'Connor, resembles a "Star Trek" episode by way of "Scooby-Doo." If a group of plucky young sleuths beamed into another era isn't implausible enough, the film asks American audiences to root for the French. Sacre bleu! (AH)

TO BE AND TO HAVE (Unrated, 104 minutes) This hypnotically absorbing documentary about the disappearance of single-class schools in France gets to know its subjects intimately, so that by the end, their triumphs and setbacks carry real emotional weight. (AH)

21 GRAMS (R, 126 minutes) Under its seemingly chic despair, its celebration of squalor, its violence, its willfully skewed narrative, "21 Grams," starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts, is a powerful relic from a bygone age: a real "miracle of faith" movie. The film itself is a miracle —tough, smart, relentless, provocative and, above all, serious. (SH)

Ray's Hairy Christmas

TELEVISION | Now we really know it's the holiday season. The new Christmas episode of "Everybody Loves Raymond" has been announced for Monday on CBS.

Ray Romano and series creator Phil Rosenthal truly "get" the essential seasonal spirit. And it's not "Christmas Carol" redos or sloppy sentiment or even that old "snowed-in" storyline. Instead, it's the deep-seated yearnings and annual thwartings of the holidays, our hopes and dreams answered by agita no matter how hard we try to make this "the best Christmas ever."

Romano

They've previously done episodes on "heirloom" presents found to be fake, heartfelt gifts coldly returned to the store and the nasty politics of the family photograph. This time, it's Ray making amends for destroying his dad's jazz records and having his efforts met by far less than the desired response. For all this series' silliness, it rarely fails to deliver a clear-eyed view of family dynamics in all their tortuous complexity.

DIANE WERTS (NEWSDAY)

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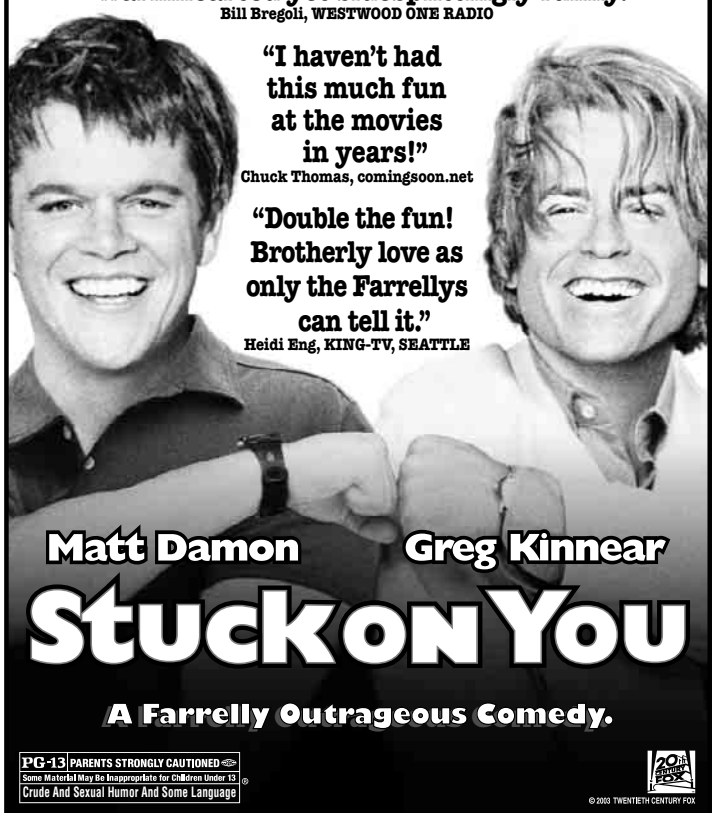

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HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

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D.C.'s MLK Jr. Ave. is in Southeast, but the book **ALONG MARTIN LUTHER KING: TRAVELS ON BLACK AMERICA'S MAIN STREET** winds through "the heart and soul of black America." ($29.95)

ARCHIVES-NAVY MEMORIAL

Archives don't stand a chance against the **MD 100 MEDIA DESTROYER**. Watch it shred a CD in four seconds; floppy disks, credit cards and paper are history as well. ($100, royal.com)

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Send the troops overseas **CALLING CARDS** (uso.org, operationuplink.org), **HEATERS** (operationac.com) or **CARE PACKAGES** (usocares.com).

BALLSTON-MU

For the home of the National Science Foundation, **MAGNETIC TENNIS BALLS**. Inside each is a super-powerful magnet – strong enough that if you throw them, they'll stay stuck together. ($16 for two, stevespanglerscience.com)

BENNING ROAD

Brigadier General Henry Lewis Benning's nickname was "the Rock." Give her a rock from **GEMESIS**, makers of the new synthetic diamond that has deBeers all in a tizzy. We're not talking cubic zirconia — more like cultured pearls. A 1.2 carat pear-cut yellow diamond runs $3,900. (gemesis.com)

BETHESDA

Upper Red Line stops have been plagued with leaks of late. But you'll be high and dry with the **MAYTAG NEPTUNE DRYING CENTER.** The cabinet on top wafts warm air through a rack for stuff that can't handle tumble drying. ($1,200-$1,350, available at the Maytag store in Sterling, Va.)

BRADDOCK ROAD

For PBS headquarters, give **SONGS FROM THE STREET: 35 YEARS OF MUSIC**, remastered "Sesame Street" favorites. ($50, Sony)

BRANCH AVE

This is the closest station to Andrews Air Force Base, home of Air Force One. Learn all about it (the plane, not Branch Avenue) in **AIR FORCE ONE: A HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENTS AND THEIR PLANES** by Kenneth T. Walsh. ($25)

BROOKLAND-CUA

For those of you who obey that rule about no candles in the dorms, **CANDLESAFE** gives you all the warm waxy ambience of a votive with none of the fire hazard. A flame-shaped bulb powered by two AA batteries does the job instead. ($40, magellans.com)

CAPITOL HEIGHTS

See Congress Heights.

CAPITOL SOUTH

Put all that hot air in Congress to good use. Control the temperature of your hands by breathing into the valve on **180S' PEFORMANCE SERIES GLOVES** with Exhale Heating System; chambers in the gloves deliver warm air to your fingertips. ($75 to $100, 180s.com)

CHEVERLY

Don't get stuck in the Cheverly parking lot. The **EASY QUICK JUMP** plugs into your cigarette lighter; the other end of the 18-foot cord plugs into the other car. Charging ensues. ($25, brookstone.com)

CLARENDON

Awww, is your Timbuk2 bike messenger bag all worn out? (All that carrying it back and forth to work in the car, huh?) Replace it with a **CRUMPLER**. (Prices vary, crumplerusa.com)

CLEVELAND PARK

Give your young, female Connecticut Avenue-dwelling professional a decent laptop bag. Casauri's **OMNI** collection comes in kiwi, navy, pink and red and in four styles. ($52 to $106; casauri.com)

COLLEGE PARK-U OF MD

Hey, jock! Get that minty locker clang in the comfort of your dorm room with the **LOCKER DRESSER**. The frame holds four drawers, each with airflow vents and a nameplate. ($253 plus $49 per drawer, pbteen.com)

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Don't start renovation on your fixer-upper townhouse without a **STRAIT-LINE 64030 LASER TAPE** measure. Point it at a wall and press the button. You need walls to use it, so it's not much good for measuring furniture, but it's great for apartment shopping. ($59, strait-line.com)

CONGRESS HEIGHTS

In the 1900s, Capitol Heights residents slogged through mud to get to the train station in Seat Pleasant. Today, Congress Heights commuters have no long-term parking. Either way, sounds like they need some good galoshes. How about some **TAMARA HENRIQUES WELLIES**? (Prices vary, tamarahenriques.com)

COURT HOUSE

Want to contest your Arlington County speeding tickets? Put the newly revised **BEAT YOUR TICKET: GO TO COURT AND WIN** on your list. (by David Brown, $22, Nolo Press)

CRYSTAL CITY

CHANDELIER EARRINGS, of course. They're everywhere this season, but check out Alex Woo's glittery offerings, such as the svelte Layla earrings. ($198; www.alexwoo.com)

DEANWOOD

Give the gift of presidential candidate vanity projects. Start with **WINNING BACK AMERICA** by Howard Dean, then move on to offerings from John Edwards and John Kerry. ($12)

DUNN LORING-MERRIFIELD

Nothing like a **MS-400046 DIGITAL TIRE PRESSURE GAUGE** to make a Dunn Loring-Merrifielder's day. ($45, www.msiusa.com/consumers)

DUPONT CIRCLE

Chris and Blair will love this **BYOBAG NEOPRENE WINE CARRIER.** ($16, builtny.com)

EAST FALLS CHURCH

With the **SONY DCR-DVD100 HANDYCAM**, you can record straight onto a DVD that will last forever (or until someone feeds it to the Media Destroyer). ($900, sony.com)

EASTERN MARKET

Emulate your favorite Eastern Market butcher with the smooth, round **HOME CHOPPING BLOCK** from John Boos. ($120, cutleryandmore.com)

EISENHOWER AVE

Garb a small child in Eisenhower-era clothing. **FIFI & FIDO** offer poodle skirts, bowling shirts and more. Sizes 2-4. (Skirt, $63; shirt, $47; fifiandfido.com, totshop.com)

FARRAGUT NORTH / FARRAGUT WEST

He said he'd meet you at the Farragut Metro. But which one?! Don't let this one slip through your fingers — dispatch friends to all the Farragut exits with **VIRGIN PULSE FRS TWO-WAY RADIOS**. ($50 per set, target.com)

Holiday Gift Guide

FEDERAL CENTER SW
FEDERAL TRIANGLE

Federal employees can gaze into the **AMBIENT ORB STOCK MARKET MONITOR** to see if their departments' spending is boosting the economy. ($150, brookstone.com)

FOGGY BOTTOM-GWU

Get some reading done while you wait for the Georgetown Metro Express, via a battery-powered light built into the dome of a sturdy **UMBRELLA**. ($42, chiasso.com)

FOREST GLEN

It's the deepest Metro — 21 stories down. So for you deep types: a subscription to **THE BELIEVER**, a new magazine of essays, book reviews and very long interviews. ($55 for one year/12 issues, store.mcsweeneys.net)

FORT TOTTEN

Major General Joseph Gilbert Totten was the Army's chief engineer. For your own little Totten, why not the **SKYRAIL SUSPENSION** set? Suspend soaring ramps from the 3-foot-tall tower, then roll marbles down them. 6 and up. ($70, www.intplay.com)

FRANCONIA-SPRINGFIELD

Give your favorite creepy mumbling office drone his very own **RED STAPLER** to love and to cherish and to defend, just like Milton in "Office Space." Swingline didn't manufacture the stapler until fans of the film started clamoring for one. ($29, swingline.com)

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

Just as this station straddles the line between Maryland and D.C., so does the **KRUPS MOKA BREW** straddle the line between espresso and drip. Low steam pressure gives the eight-cup coffeemaker that little something extra. ($160, williams-sonoma.com)

GALLERY PLACE-CHINATOWN

It's a Chrismukkah miracle! This all-in-one **PICTURE HANGING SYSTEM** locates studs and center points, identifies spots for nails and levels pictures. Comes with a hammer and hanging hardware. ($30, shopping.discovery.com)

GEORGIA AVE-PETWORTH

How much is your pet worth? How about $369 for an ice-blue **KELLY BAG** pet carrier? Also comes in pale pink for Elle Woods-wannabes, and basic black. (trixieandpeanut.com)

GLENMONT

See Shady Grove.

GREENBELT

Hey, you can see the stars out here! (And NASA's right around the corner.) Scope out the night sky with Discovery Kids' **SL70 SKY AND LAND TELESCOPE**. ($150, shopping.discovery.com)

GROSVENOR-STRATHMORE

There's great sledding in these parts. Get in the mood with **INSTA-SNOW POWDER**. Add water and watch it expand to 100 times its original size. ($35 for one pound, stevespanglerscience.com)

HUNTINGTON

Metro provides the self-cleaning public toilet; you bring the classy bathroom reading. **SCHOTT'S ORIGINAL MISCELLANY** by Ben Schott was a runaway bestseller in Britain and is full of such random knowledge as "Some Notable Belgians." ($15)

JUDICIARY SQUARE

Score some fly **"TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION" GEAR** (boxers, clocks, tote bags) to go with your new license plates from the DMV. (www.cafeshops.com/dcvote)

KING STREET

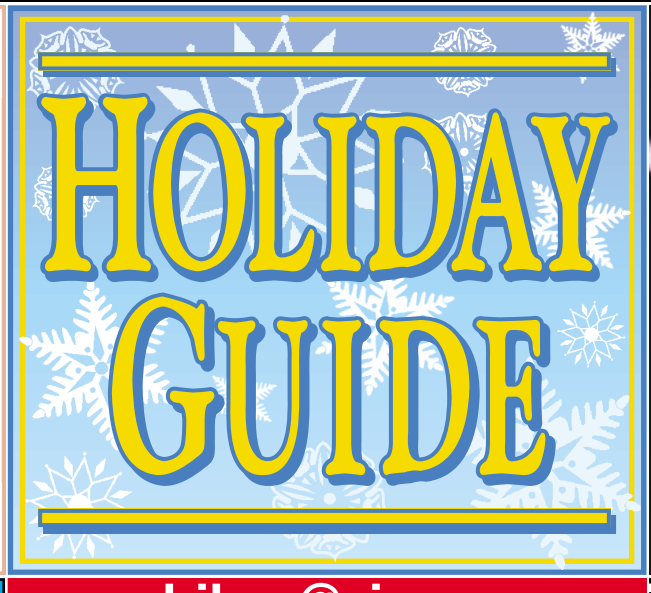
Give the gift of the magi: a half-gram of edible **GOLD** dust, **FRANKINCENSE** incense cones and **MYRRH**-infused shea butter salve (great for those divine stretch marks). ($39.95, www.originalchristmasgift.com)

LANDOVER

Behold the astonishing decadence of the **SKYBOX PERSONAL BEVERAGE VENDOR**. Customized with your favorite NFL team logo, it stands nearly 5 feet tall and can hold 66 12-ounce cans. ($500, skyboxbymaytag.com)

L'ENFANT PLAZA

Prepare your l'enfant for the daily grind with a week's worth of **ONESIES**, each embroidered with a day of the week. Fits 6-12 months. ($75, redenvelope.com)



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Check springfieldmall.com for details.

Holiday Gift Guide

MCPHERSON SQUARE

Yes, it's unoriginal, we know: **THE WEST WING: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON** DVDs. ($60)

MEDICAL CENTER

DNA EXPLORER includes an honest-to-gosh kiddie centrifuge; use it to extract, sequence and study the DNA of food matter. It comes with freeze-dried peas to get you started. 10 and up. ($80, shopping.discovery.com)

METRO CENTER

Snuggle up with your favorite public transportation system. Metro's **SQUEEZE BUS AND TRAIN CAR** are made of comforting non-toxic foam — excellent for yourself and/or l'enfant. ($4.50, www.costore.com/wmatagifts)

MINNESOTA AVE

A SAVINGS BOND. By the time it matures, the recipent can hop on the light rail and spend it all right here.

MT VERNON SQ/7TH ST-CONVENTION CENTER

You're only here for a day; use a **UNIVERSAL TRIPOD AND SELF-TIMER** to shoot yourself in front of D.C. landmarks with a disposable camera. ($10, joyinnovations.com)

NAVY YARD

Let your little mixmaster practice on **DJ SKRIBBLE SPINHEADS** dolls — move their heads to mix beats, "ill lyricals" and more. ($9 each, toy stores)

NAYLOR ROAD

In 2000, the Naylor Road Metro station won a Concrete in Transit Award. In 2003, give your own Major Award: the **LEG LAMP**, as seen in "A Christmas Story." (basic lamp is $170 plus $45 shipping, leglamps.com).

NEW CARROLLTON

Don't interrupt the soundtrack of your bus-train-car commute. Belkin's **TUNECAST** plugs into your MP3 player and sends the sound to your car stereo via FM radio. ($40, belkin.com)

PENTAGON

It's Maxim for military men — you'll note that the models are slightly more clothed. **DRILL MAGAZINE**, which debuted this year, is available via subscription or on military bases. ($15, drillmagazine.com)

PENTAGON CITY

For the home of the Drug Enforcement Administration Museum: **DAVIES GATE POWDER SUGAR BATH SOAK.** Soft and fine, sweet and white — just like the nose candy you'll see at the museum. ($21, sephora.com)

POTOMAC AVE

Car-sharing service **ZIPCAR** goes only as far as Potomac Avenue on the Blue line. Give Zipcar in the form of a gift certificate. (Minimum purchase $60, www.zipcar.com/gift)

PRINCE GEORGE'S PLAZA

Darn snow! The **ICEDOZER PLUS** gets the snow off your car and keeps it from going down your sleeve. ($30, innovationfactory.com)

RHODE ISLAND AVE

In **NEW ENGLAND**, Games magazine's Game of the Year, the winner is the one with the most Pilgrims, barns and developed land. 10 and up. ($45, uberplay.com)

ROCKVILLE

Each and every digital photo of your child is sacred — all 2,000 of 'em. Organize and back up your most precious data with **ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ALBUM 2.0.** ($50, adobe.com)

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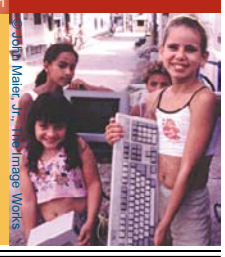
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Holiday Gift Guide

RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

Plants don't water themselves, especially when you're always jetting off. Eva Solo's **SELF-WATERING VASE** is a stainless steel pot inside an outer glass vase; water wicks up through a nylon "root" to keep plants hydrated for seven to 10 days. ($80, evasolo.com)

ROSSLYN

Some of you believe that Rosslyn will someday welcome River Place, one of the three nixed baseball stadium proposals for Arlington County. For you dreamers, the **2004 AND 2003 BILL JAMES HANDBOOKS**, featuring WinShares, the baseball statistics guru's new player ranking system. ($20)

SHADY GROVE

Shady Grove and Glenmont are only about 10 miles apart by car — and 32.8 miles apart by Metrorail. Such agony and irony calls for **THE COMPLETE FAR SIDE**, Gary Larson's mammoth two-volume cartoon collection. ($180)

SHAW-HOWARD U

Keep your college student out of the hands of the recording industry with an **ITUNES GIFT CERTIFICATE**. Sold in $10 increments. (store.apple.com)

SILVER SPRING

Give an **AFI MEMBERSHIP** to downtown Silver Spring's new Silver Theater. Fifty bucks gets you four free passes (a $32 value), $1 off up to two tickets per screening, the newsletter and more. (www.afi.com/join)

SMITHSONIAN

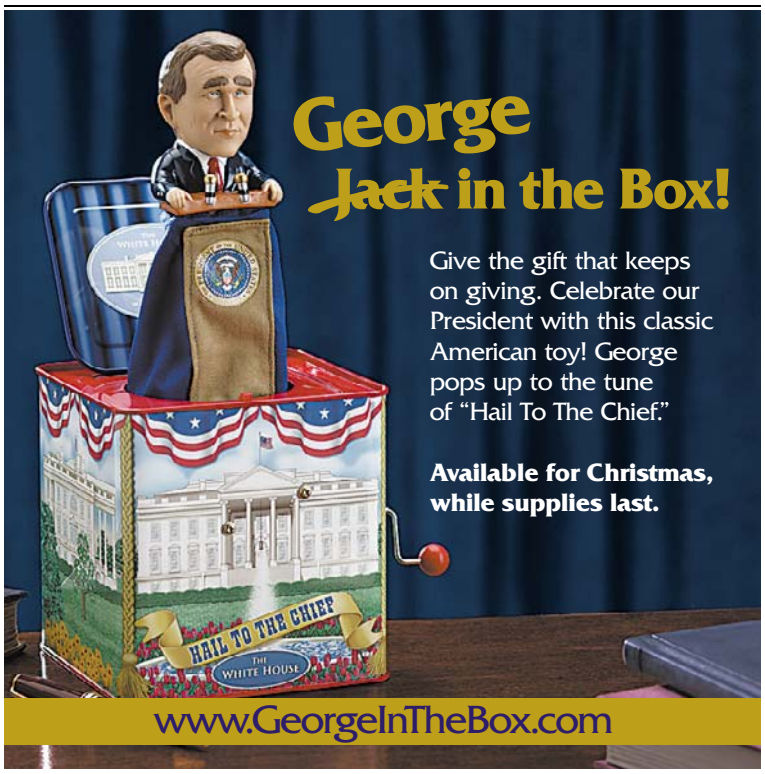
Add **MUSEUM PLAQUES**, complete with arty blurbs, to your home for that curated feel. ($10, readymademag.com)

SOUTHERN AVE

Johnny Cash was from the South ... yes, we're reaching. Give the **UNEARTHED** five-disc CD set to your grieving Cash fan. ($80)

STADIUM-ARMORY

Press the "capture" button and Bushnell's **INSTANT REPLAY BINOCULARS** will save the last 30 seconds of the game. Plus, they make far things seem close. ($600, bushnell.com)



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Holiday Gift Guide

SUITLAND
For the home of the Census Bureau: Crunch numbers on a sleek Texas Instruments **TI-83 PLUS SILVER EDITION** (the hot new version of that graphing calculator you used to use). ($130, education.ti.com)

TAKOMA
American Apparel's **SUSTAINABLE EDITION** line includes T-shirts, tanks and thongs (yet strangely, no briefs or bikinis) in basic off-white, all made of 100 percent Certified Organic Cotton. (thong, $9; americanapparel.net)

TENLEYTOWN-AU
You're all hoochied up, but where's the camera supposed to go? The lipstick-sized **PHILIPS KEY RING CAMERA** will fit into the teensiest of teeny purses; plugs straight into a computer's USB jack to upload pictures and recharge. ($100, philips.com)

TWINBROOK
Hewlett-Packard's **SCANJET 4670** is clear on both sides (you know, like, uh, twins?) for exceptionally easy scanning of just about anything. ($199, hp.com)

U ST/AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL/CARDOZO
The **9:30 CLUB** is selling **GIFT CERTIFICATES** for the first time this year. (www.930.com)

UNION STATION
Make famous hotel drinks (such as the local Renaissance Mayflower's "Mayflower Royal") at home with **MEET ME IN THE BAR: CLASSIC DRINKS FROM AMERICA'S HISTORIC HOTELS**. Fun fact: Many of these hotels are reachable via Amtrak! ($20)

VAN DORN STREET
The unfortunate General Earl Van Dorn lost Civil War battles and was shot by the husband of a woman he was pursuing. In memoriam: **THE BAD BEGINNING RARE EDITION**, a reissue of the first in the best-selling "A Series of Unfortunate Events." A chapter of author's notes is just one alarming new feature. ($15, www.lemonysnicket.com)

VAN NESS-UDC
You won't hear anything but music at the Van Ness Gold's Gym with **ETYMOTIC'S ER-4P MICROPRO** "microspeakers" (aka super-duper earbuds). ($330, www.etymotic.com)

VIENNA/FAIRFAX-GMU
Go home to your bedroom community and slip on some toasty **UGG SHEEPSKIN SLIPPERS**, far more attractive than the bulky Ugg boots all the trendy teens are whining for. (Prices vary, uggaustralia.com)

VIRGINIA SQUARE-GMU
The attractive new stainless-steel canopy shielding Virginia Square's delicate escalators cost a pretty penny. To celebrate: Nine pieces of overpriced stainless steel **ALL-CLAD COOKWARE** from Williams-Sonoma. ($659, williams-sonoma.com)

WATERFRONT-SEU
Just because there's water doesn't mean you should drink it. The **MSR MIOX PURIFIER** is super-lightweight and about the size of a flashlight, but can purify large amounts of drinking water — it creates a chemical cocktail that you pour into the questionable water. We still wouldn't use it in the Potomac, though. ($130, www.backcountrystore.com)

WEST FALLS CHURCH-VT/UVA
Take the **TUMI TRANSPORTER** on the Dulles shuttle. A carry-on wheelie with a swiveling handle, it also has a fold-out garment bag and pockets galore. ($395, tumi.com)

WEST HYATTSVILLE
We don't know why it's at West Hyattsville — but it didn't belong anywhere else. Pull back the elastic band on the fascinating **AIRZOOKA** toy and it emits a big blast of air. It's fun, really. ($15, airzooka.com)

WHEATON
Keep tabs on your heart rate as you walk up the Western Hemisphere's longest escalator. The **POLAR M32 WATCH** uses a washable, comfortable fabric chest strap to collect heart-rate data; it counts calories and tracks fat burn, too. ($149, polarusa.com)

WHITE FLINT
The **COLEMAN CARTCAT CATALYTIC CART HEATER** will keep your golfer warm — even on White Flint's miniature golf course. ($50, amazon.com)

WOODLEY PARK-ZOO/ADAMS MORGAN
OUCHY! THE ZOO HURTS TEE. Enough said. ($18, www.oopsy-daisy.com)

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Join the first mobile dating service created for your active lifestyle. It goes wherever you go, so if you're always on the go, or too busy to catch up with conventional dating, then it's for you! Join right now and browse profiles of hundreds of local singles—one simple phone call is all it takes.

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A Curbside Carol

Dashing down the highway
T'wards home for a holiday feast,

Suddenly the car wouldn't go,
The engine it had ceased,

Turned and turned the key,
The noise grew worse and worse,

O' to be stuck on the road,
It makes me want to curse.

What could be worse than car problems during the holidays? How about arriving with no gift? Well, we've got an answer for both – a AAA membership. Get one for a gift. Get one for yourself. Right now, **save up to $20 off the cost of a membership.** Happy road. Happy Holidays.

To give a gift, visit your local **Washington, DC Retail Office,** or call **703-222-2225.**

Offer good through December 24, 2003. Not available in all markets.

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Exclusive No-Hassle, No-Haggle Sales Event!

When you see the Wish List tag hanging in the window of one of our vehicles during December, it means tremendous savings to you. Lincoln Mercury has provided special incentives between now and December 31st that make these deals possible. ***These Are Real Savings – Not Gimmicks.***

This Offer is Exclusive. This is a No-Hassle, No-Haggle Sale. Sale Prices on eligible units will be clearly marked with Wish List Discount tags.

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WISH LIST YEAR-END EVENT

$10,000 OFF!*

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*All prices/discounts include all rebates/incentives & are plus taxes, tags, & a $189 processing fee. See dealer for details.

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Come join a winning team and help sell out the National Symphony Orchestra's best season ever! Classical music/sales exp. a plus. PT evening and day. Free tix, mgmt pot. Call 202-797-0083 between 1 pm & 4pm.

AUTO — Busy No.Va. service station looking for VA state inspector. Excellent pay, benefits, working environment. Please call 703-978-0707.

AUTO

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No experience necessary, we will train. The DARCARS Automotive Group is the **#1** vol. Auto group in the Washington Metro area with 25 dealerships in Montgomery Co., P.G. Co., Frederick Co., Charles Co. and Fairfax Co. Due to the enormous growth of our company we are seeking highly motivated, customer friendly, career minded individuals to join our team of professionals.

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For interview apply in person to **Sam Bruner** M - F Between 9:30am- 7pm At DARCARS Mazda, 12214 Cherry Hill Rd., Silver Spring, MD. (Corner of Rte. 29 and Cherry Hill Rd.)(301) 622-0020.

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DENTAL FRONT DESK—Receptionist needed for general practice in Upper NW near Sibley Hospital. Dental & computer exper. req'd. Call 202-966-8108.

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST— with dental assisting exper. College background a must. In PG Co. Call (301) 474-2505 or Fax (301) 474-2507.

DISPATCH/OPS MGR—DC & Balto. courier co. Exp. req. in a high volume, computer based, on demand courier service. Comp. & career path commensurate w/exp. & performance. 301-470-5620

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Take home cash daily when you drive for us.

- $500-$750 weekly
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NANNY/Housekeeper—LIVEIN, excel refrences, own trans, $600/wk, 703-655-7329

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NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER—Live-in. Exper only. Energetic. MD. Must drive. $300/wk. 240-460-0785.

NANNY—Rockville. F/T. Must drive. 301-424-8892.

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6 days a week for free publication. Own transportation required. Call Tania, 703-866-9947.
For paid publication, also 6 days a week. Call Dexter 571-237-4385.

NUCLEAR MED TECH — P/T. 1 full weekday/week, needed in a cardiology office in Greenbelt, MD. Competitive pay. If interested, fax your resume to: 301-854-5431

Nurse Practitioner Washington DC area, opportunity for DC certified nurse practitioners to provide primary care in a long-term care setting. Acute care/vent exp a +. for FT position. prev long-term care exp pref. Please send resume to Edward Cruz Fax 914-686-4227.

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DC housing firm seeks applicants to multifamily rental, co-op and condo properties in NW & SE DC.

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We are accepting applications on Monday, December 8 and Tuesday, December 9 at the MS GRILL, 600 13th Street NW (Metro Center), between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Please apply in person and ask for Craig or Tommy.

We will also be conducting a **Job Fair** on Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott, 900 F Street N.W. (Gallery Place, 9th Street Exit) Please apply in person.

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DUP CIR—Great loc. 2 blks metro. Maid svc. 24hr desk. Laundry room. Dailys from $44 & weekly from $165/week. Brickskeller Inn.
1523 22nd St, NW 202-293-1885

DUPONT CIRCLE—Stunning Jr. 1BR w/prk'g, sunny, hdwd, newly painted, spac closets, brand new refrig/range, 24/7 front desk, $1500 incl utls, Avl immed, 202-415-4664

DUPONT/Logan Circle Area— Large Sunny studio, 2 blks fr Whole Food, hw flrs, 24-hr sec bldg, roof top pool, avl immed $1150 uts inc 301-299-8990

FAIRFAX—Prof/grad student, MBR & BR to shr., 5 mins. from GMU. $595 & $495 + utils. 202 435-5249

FALLS CH/Nr EFC Metro—Lrg 1BR, 1BA, 2nd flr condo, new carp, balc. $895 incl utils. Dep. 703-819-4962.

FALLS CHURCH —3BR, 2½BA, nr Metro, schools, bike trail & 66. Secl. area. immed occup. $1550+utils. 703-932-1354 or 703-723-4575.

FOGGY BOT—941 25th St, str lvl, lrg 1BR, hdwd flrs, mod kit, cac, w/d, pvt brked-inpatio, poss OSP. $1350/mo+ utils.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

GEO'TOWN/1514 31ST ST, NW—1BR, w/d, ac, convenient to shops, $1350/mo+utls.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

GREAT FALLS— Sunny, pvt. furn. studio. 6 mi. fr. Tysons, DSL wireless, catv, deck, kit., lndry, n/smkg. $1250 mo. incls. utls. 703-759-2685

LARGO—TH, 2 lvls, 2BR, 1½BA, W/D, w/w, frpl, nr bus, $1100/mo+utils. 301-630-4431

FALLS CH—SFH, newly renov, nr. Arl. in upscale posh ngbrhd., close in conv. loc. nr. Metro, 5 mins. DC & Pentagon, wlk. mall, 3 fin. lvls, 3BR,3 FB, wlkout bsmt, new kit. w/granite cntrtops. Avl immed. $1995. Call Shad :
Wkend/Eve-703 587-5141 Weekdays-703 893-9644

GLOVER PK **2626-2634 Tunlaw Rd NW**
Freshly remod Effcys & 1 BRs from $895. All utils incl. No pets. Excel loc. Call Tony. 202-625-2237.
Phillips Property Mgmt Inc.

LORTON—1-BR bsmt, pvt entr., W/D $875+utils. 1/15/04. 703-550-2317

MANASSAS—New lux TH, 4-BR 3½-BA, dk, fin. bsmt., & more. Easy commute (VA rail or I-66). $1600. Short-long term. 571-277-5335

MCLEAN $2600 AVAILBALE IMMEDIATELY
4/5BR, open flr plan, loc in heart of McLean, cls toshops/schls/public transp ideal in-law. suite w/ sep ent, 703-447-1148 Day/703-698-8786 Evenings

NE/1101 19TH St—Large 2BR, $717/mo+utils, close to Hechinger Mall.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

NE/1606 K St—Lg 1BR w/hdwd flr, coin op laundry on premise; close to Hechinger Mall & transp. Section 8 OK. $675/mo. inclds heat & hot water.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

NE/1616 K St—Lg 2BR w/hdwd flr, coin op laundry on premise; close to Hechinger Mall & transp. Sec 8 ok, $849/mo. inclds heat & hot water. **Thomas D. Walsh Rltr 202-237-8488**

NE/4151 Minn Ave—Large 1BR, hdwd floor, across Minn. Metro, $500+utils.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr, 202-237-8488

NE/Woodridge—Non-smoking furnished 1BR with den, pvt. entrance. $650 all utils included. On bus line. No pets. 202-635-8035

NORTH POTOMAC **$1800**
Renov. 3BR, 2½BA end TH, fin bsmt. Shows like a model! W/incred view of parkland. Avail 12/30.
Joyce Wehrle Re/Max Allegiance 301-655-3377

NW/1529 6th St —2BR apt, skylights, w/d, d/w, CAC, private. 1 block to Metro. $1495.
301 630-5902 x8

OAK HILL/Fox Mill Estates—Nicely maintained 4BR, 2BA SFH in sought after nghd on quiet cul de sac. Nice yd. Cls to schls, shops, pool & tennis. $1600/mo+utils. Avail 2/5. 703-716-8384

RATES ARE RISING—Don't miss the Boat. Refinance your home today. Low interest rates are still available. Consolidate debt/or take out cash at lower rates. Call 202-441-0014.

ROCKVILLE/BETH PARK—Beaut 2BR 1BA, like new, $1200 utils incl. 301-829-8264

ROCKVILLE/KING FARM **$2000**
Brand new 3BR TH with 2 car garage. 3 finished levels.
301 455-1103

SE— 1 BR & 1BR w/den $600 & up+elec. No pets. 202-265-4814; 202-889-4083 **Fred A. Smith Co.**

SE/1301 U St—Lge 2BR w/coin-op laundry on prem, nr Metro, $672/mo incl utls,
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

SE/1941 NAYLOR RD— Lrg 1BR, hdwd flrs, brand new kit & wndws, $550. Lg 2BR, hdwd flrs, brand new kit, new wndws, $659; incl ht & hot wtr.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

SE/5212 E St—Lge 1BR, w/coin-op
on prem., close to Benning Metro, $525+ electric.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr 202-237-8488

SIL SPG-$1750 —9609 Dallas Ave. 4BR, 3BA, bsmt, deck, porch, Call Richtmyer R.E. 301-299-9525 ; 301-990-6929.

SPRINGFIELD—Bright 1 BR, 1 BA condo. W/D, pool, Metro. 1/2 mo. FREE rent. $1100. 703-451-1341.

SPRINGFLD—3BR, 4BA, gar. Shuttle to metro. $1900. 925-595-5497 cell

STERLING/Sugarland—Preview! Freshly carpeted & painted. Huge 3 or 4 BR, 2.5 BA TH w/frpl. Ready for move-in next week. Conv to Rt 7 & shppg. $1450/mo. Call Own/Agt. 703-893-9811

S.W.-2BR condo, gated community. OSP, 15 min to downtwn, $950/mo, gd credit & ref req. 301-753-8291

TAKOMA PK—Historic DC. Lg 1BR apt., pvt. BA, wlk in closet. Free utils w/prem. cabl, all new applncs, off-street prkng. 1 blk from Takoma Red Line Metro Station. Credit check required. $1350/mo. $400/wk.
202-291-8252

TYSONS/VIENNA
•END-UNIT TH •TWO CAR GARAGE
Former model brick townhome,3 bedrms, 3½ baths, 2 fpls, jacuzzi, Jennaire, sub-zero, Corian and more. Gas heat, beautiful condition. $2500/mo.
Call 703-734-9444 or 703 909-3797

VIENNA 2BR CONDO
Brand new Acadia 2 BR, 2 BA condo, 5 min walk to metro, W/D, fpl, 24 hr fitness ctr, pool, gar pkg.
$1550 Call 703-587-7341

VIENNA METRO—New lux 1BR condo, balc, W/D, rsvrd prkg sp. Avail now. $1150+. 202-352-5345

WOODBRIDGE
Cozy 2 & 3BR w/fplc., 3BR at $1099. Free firewood incld. Special this wk only: 1 month rent free. Call Sarita, 703-494-5265.

ROOMMATES

ALEX—Professional N/S share 2BR/2BA new apartment, dogs ok. $750+ ½ util.
Avail immed. 443-983-4622

HERNDON/RESTON—Sh hse. Rms for rent, nr shops, toll rd, bus, avl immed. 703-899-2192.

LeDROIT PARK—Historical U St. Shr newly renov. house w/pvt., furn. rm w/BA. Inclds TV, stereo, DVD, DSL & parking. Prof. or grad student OK. $800/mo. + deposit. 240-505-5558 or 202-332-1053.

ARL N/1 blk EFC Metro—Nsmkg prof F. shr 4 BR TH w/3 prof F. & dog. Own BA, w/d, maid svc. Avl now. $675 + ¼ utils. 703-533-8361

ROCKV—Fully furn'd BR in house, close to transp, kit, d/w, w/d, w/w, $415/$445+uts 301-460-5177

SIL SPG/Downtown—Close to 2 Metros, M/F shr TH, w/d, large & small bedroom, 301-675-1242

CONDOS

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3 renov condo units, European kitch, bamboo flrs, new applcs/BA, STARTING AT $160K-$180K
1822 15th St, NW, Wash DC 20009
Call 571-228-9694 703-625-8495

ALEX/Place 1 Condo—1BR, 1BA new remod w/ granite, marble, Fr doors, etc, gorg! $163,500. 571-277-1831

Columbia Heights
Luxury Condos
3 Condos at 2721 13th St NW w/Parking, Hwd Floors, Granite Kit, Marlbe and Jacuzzi baths etc.
Open Sun 1-4: 2BR/1.5B $299K; 2BR/2B $379K; 3BR/3B $549K
Dcmetropolitanhomes.com
Fairfax Realty
Amir Khan **(703)629-3541**

FORESTVL—$0 down. 2BR. Wlk Mall. Fpl, $79,900. 703-370-3319

FT WASH—2BR condo, walk to bus and shops. $69,900. 703-370-3319

McLEAN/ENCORE—2BR, 2BA, corner unit, hdwd flrs, renov'd EIK, 2-gar prkg, $325K. FSBO. Open Sat, 1-4.703 931-1615; 703-626-7543

NW/NIKITA CONDOS **1123 5TH ST.**
NEW RENOVATED CONDOS
AVAILABLE FOR PREVIEW
BY APPT ONLY. **703-625-8495**

HOUSES

16TH ST HTS/N.W. **$350,000**
Lovely remodeled 4BR, 2½BA home, sep DR, frpl, den, bsmt, new appls, w/w crpt + more. 1315 Allison St. N.W. Call 301-325-0049.Re/Max First

ALEX/4 BR, 3 BA Colo in wonderful Mt Vernon area. A must see. 571-437-5529, Fairfax RE

ALEXANDRIA NEAR ALL BASES-
BRAND-NEW SFH & TOWNHOUSES
3 & 4BRs, 2½Bas, 3 lvls, 1 & 2 car gar. Avail now, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1. Owner finan. avail. Credit issues, bankruptcy no problems, many options.
703-660-6752 Let's Make A Deal

ARL/CRYSTAL CITY (Fox St.)—Conv to Pentagon Row, Potomac Yards, Airport. Bright 2BR, 1.5BA dplx w/hdwd flrs, CAC, w/d, d/w, new kit, lge unfin bsmt. $1400+utils. Call 301-213-6144

ARL N./Clarendon—Charming 5BR, 2BA house for rent. Frpl, w/d, hdwd flrs, walk to Metro, market, o/a, $3450. 703-527-6415

BETH N/Stoneybrook $439,900 Walk to Metro
3BR, 3.5BA TH. Next to park/trees. Exc cond., neutral, 2fps, El kit, fin w/o bsmt, w/frpl. 301-896-0552. Email: cloisterth@aol.com. Prin. only.

BOWIE **$239,900**
3BR, 2BA rambler, upgraded kit/BA/appls, 1 car gar. Closing help. Chris 301-980-4053 Realty Exec 2000

BUYING? SELLING? GET RESULTS!
Call Dean Dillard: 301-753-1053
(SO MD, PG).**Re/Max Colonial Homes**

COLLEGE PK—lot for sale, rare buildable lot Nr UMD & Metro 5500 sq ft, Call Larry Gross 410-715-4470 Re/Max Advantage Realty

COLUMBIA HGHTS—1248 Fairmont St., NW. $2600. Compl. renov. 4BR, den, 2½BA, 2 zone cac. 5 blocks to metro. Vacant. O/A, 703-356-2212

DC — MEDICAL/PROFESSIONAL 730 24TH ST NW, 1ST FLR - 671 sf, 2+ 20 prkg spaces, 24 hr access. 1/2 blk G.W. Hosp. Could be residential apt. $265,000. Avl now. 202-625-0261.

DO YOU HAVE A DISTRESSED PROPERTY — Are you a distressed seller? We buy houses for cash. Can probably close in 7 days. Call 240-393-9222

DUPONT **1454 T**
This 2BR, 1BA row house is perfection-wood flrs., crown moulding, front/rear grdn, and secure prkng. '99 Renov. incls: new roof, wdws, kitch., & BA. Full unfin. storage bsmt., $529,500.Charlie Gaynor
202-246-1333 Tour: www.CityHousesDC.com
CITY HOUSES

FALLS CH—7571 Chrisland Cove. $1850. Waterfront - 2 master suites, loft, balcony, deck, ½ block to metrobus. Vacant. O/A. 703-356-2212.

FALLS CHURCH PRICE REDUCED TO SELL —Lovely rambler. 4BR, 2BA, full bsmt, pvt lot, landscaped, many updates. Must see. Prime loc: 66 & 495. $374,900. 1813 Gilson St. 703-356-6270

FT WASHINGTON **$275,000**
4BR, 2FBA, frpl, hdwd flrs, deck, fncd in yd, 2-car gar, live by the Potomac & nr The Marina, pool, tennis cts & rests. Steven Thames 301-203-9257. Re/Max 100

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301-649-6029

HARD MONEY LOANS—Residential, commercial, investors welcome. Call 1-866-578-3870

HUNTER/FISHERMAN'S PARADISE—2½ hrs from D.C. area. Near Blue Ridge Pkwy, App. Trl, James R., 4 stckd trout streams, & Nat. Forest. +/- 14 ac, 3BR moblie. Botetourt Co, VA. $68,000. 540-463-4917

I BUY HOUSES/Any Condition
"Fast $$$$." 301-466-2425

N.E. 8 P ST.—2800 SF all on one floor, brick garage with bay door. No automotive. $2300/mo.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

HUNTER'S PARADISE—128 acs, lots of deer & turkey, stocked pond, free gas, great oppty for mountain get away or residence. $200,000. For details call Mark at 1-800-439-2024.

LAKE RIDGE/County Center—Brand new 3 fin lvl colo. 2-car gar, ready to move. $484,950. Call now: Tom Williams 703-850-5073.
The Real Estate Exchange

LANSDOWNE/LEESBURG—Brick beauty. New lux TH w/3BR & study, 3.5BA, incl jacuzzi, hw flrs, fenc'd yrd, a breathtaking view of mountains from deck, gour kit, 2 car gar. Avail immed. $5000 closing costs. w/no agent **$459,900. 703 437-9051.**

OLNEY/NORBECK GROVE **$629,900**
First Offering. Exciting, beaut stone-front colo. Side loading gar, spac. kit & fam rm, 3 fin lvls, 4BR, 3½BA.
SCHLESINGER CO. **301-949-2131**

ORLEAN, VA HORSE FARM $489,900
Beaut. view of the mtns from your rolling 10 acres. Private & lovely, home & gardens in VA hunt country.
•4/5 BR, 3 BA Colonial •Formal Areas & 2 Frpls •Oversized 2-Car Gar. •Fncd, Barn, Horse Trls •Winding Tree-Lined Drive
Nature at your doorstep. Rear your children in paradise. West of Warrenton, VA in Faquier Co.
540-364-3706

POTOMAC/River Falls—4BR, 2.5BA, lvl lot, backing to dedicated parkland. Tennis, swim club, Whitman Pyle Schl. **$1,025,000**
301-983-2107

SIL SPG/Woodlawn Terrace—707 Chichester Ln. Large 5BR, 4BA, det. brick with garage & OSP. cac, full basement. $2500/mo.
Thomas D. Walsh Rltr **202-237-8488**

SLAUGHTER BEACH, DE—4 waterview Delaware Bay lots avail. 75x102 ft. Public water, on-site septic approval, private road. RE/MAX Twin Counties, Joan, 302-422-2392; 866-80-REMAX

SPRINGFIELD/Burke **$239K FORECLOSURE**
3BR, 2½BA, others to choose from. $1025/mo.
4.5% 5 yr arm. RE/MAX 703-625-9392
www.ffxzerodown.com

SPRINGFLD/Backlick Rd—3200sf, 2nd fl. $12/sf. Full svc. 703-971-2233

TYSONS—Open Sun 1-4. 2132 Tysons Exec Ct. Mins to Dunn Loring Metro, 3 lvl, 4BR, 3FBA, det. 6 yr old Colonial in Tysons Exec. Village. $687,000. Call Ceari at Camelot Realtors, 571-259-4053.

UPPER MARLBORO— Spectacular home, One of a Kind. Kit & MSBA, renov. w/upgrd Designer gourmet kit & delx bath w/jacuzzi, LR, DR, FR w/brk frpl, work shop/studio, hdwd flrs, game rm, 2 tier cust deck w/gazebo, brk patio, alarm sys, gar, lush lndscp. $309,900. 301-299-8952; Cell 301-792-6427. J. Fling, Fairfax Realty

WE BUY HOUSES/ANY CONDITION. STOP FORCLOSURE. 301-346-4394

WHEELS

CAD '93 El Dorado—Burgundy. 97K mi. New eng/ tires. Gar kept. Looks good. $4400. 202-484-4022

FORD '02 Explorer XLT—4dr, 4x4, leather 73K highway mi, new body style, ex-clean in/out, $14,500. 443-255-4018

GMC '80 8000 Diesel—Digger Derrick, Pitman Polecat, 7½ ton crane, top of line. Excel for electrical & construction contractors. Runs good, $7500. 301-925-4500.

ISUZU '98 RODEO. 4x4, 5sp, 134K, exc cond, 1 ownr. **$4950. 703-338-9726**

MAZDA '01 626 ES—V6 2.5L, Auto, 25k mi, Grey, AM/FM, CD, AC, PW/PDL, $9900, 301-718-8054 x 3019084742 call after 12/7

PORSCHE '01 911 C-2—Tip, 15Kmi, Xenon, turbo wheels, full leather $48,950. WBM 703-593-7000

TOYOTA—'01 4RUNNER, red w/tan int, 4WD, snrf, new tires, most opts, 50Kmi, excel cond, Toyota cert. used car warr. $21,000. 703-303-2127 or 703-404-7200

TOYOTA '00 Sienna XLE—spruce/tan leath, 34,700 mi, ac, rf rk am/fm 6 disk CD cass, psts, cruise, pwr slid dr, ABS $17,995. 301-869-0268;

TOYOTA '97 4-Runner—Ltd, loaded, Green, V-6, 4x4, 81Kmi, leath, wood console, all pwr, brush guard, new tires, CD. Tow pkg, sunrf, $15,750.
301-214-2434

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People

ETHAN MILLER/REUTERS

TROPHY LIFE

Red-Letter Night

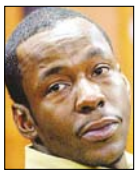
Hip-hop and R&B dominated the Billboard Music Awards Wednesday night when crooner **R. KELLY**, right, and sultry singer Beyonce each won four awards. Wild-child singer **PINK**, above, bent over backward during her performance but went home empty-handed. (AP)

ETHAN MILLER/REUTERS

THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

Bobby Brown Still a Mess

Not only was singer **BOBBY BROWN**



charged with battery after he allegedly hit his wife, Whitney Houston, but now authorities are investigating whether Brown violated his probation on a prior drunken-driving conviction. (AP)

HEARSAY | CHEESY

"I'm as single as a slice of cheese."

—**NICK CANNON**
RISING STAR OF "DRUMLINE" AND "LOVE DON'T COST A THING"

JIM COLE/AP

TALKING POINTS: "So, uh, Jenny, you want some of my oatmeal?" "That's Gina."

BLIND DATING

Shall I Compare Thee To a Sound Fiscal Policy?

A first date for presidential hopeful **DENNIS KUCINICH** ended with kisses on the cheek and an endorsement. "Gina, we'll talk," Kucinich, 57, told **GINA MARIE SANTORE**, 34, after the two had breakfast Thursday. A political Web site chose the New Jersey woman for a date with the twice-divorced Ohio congressman, who had recently joked about what he wanted in a first lady. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area — All forecasts provided by **AccuWeather.com ©2003**

Today	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.
Hi **47**	Hi **38**	Hi **38**	Hi **48**	Hi **48**
Lo **30**	Lo **32**	Lo **34**	Lo **34**	Lo **36**

UV Index (for solar noon)
2 out of 10, minimal

Air Quality Index (AQI)
AQI Today: Not available

Pollen Index (Yesterday)
Reading: Main offender: Not available

Today, partly cloudy. High 47. Wind west to northwest 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear, cold, less wind. Low 30. Tomorrow, partly sunny, cold. High 38.

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Playback

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

IF MEMBERS OF the D.C. school board really cared about the children who are stuck in a failed public school system, they would not have decided to cut 545 teacher positions to fix their budget problem ("D.C. Schools to Cut 771 Jobs," Dec. 10).

The school board should make all of its job cuts from among non-teacher employees. This would both lessen the impact on the students and reduce the system's bloated bureaucracy.

—GOUD MARAGANI
Washington, D.C.

ALL I COULD THINK was "Ouch!" when I saw the front-page picture of little Robert Faulkner, who'd just gotten his flu shot (Dec. 11).

When you think about it, he's expressing what many adults are embarrassed to.

—DONISE JOHNSON
Upper Marlboro, Md.

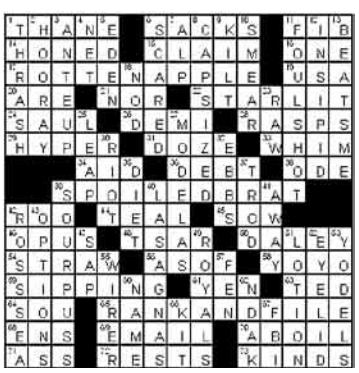
WHY CAN'T METRO do something to ensure that the disabled and elderly have seating? I have seen people standing with canes while younger people make room on the handicapped seats for each other. People, please be considerate.

—JAUNICE E. HARRIS
Temple Hills, Md.

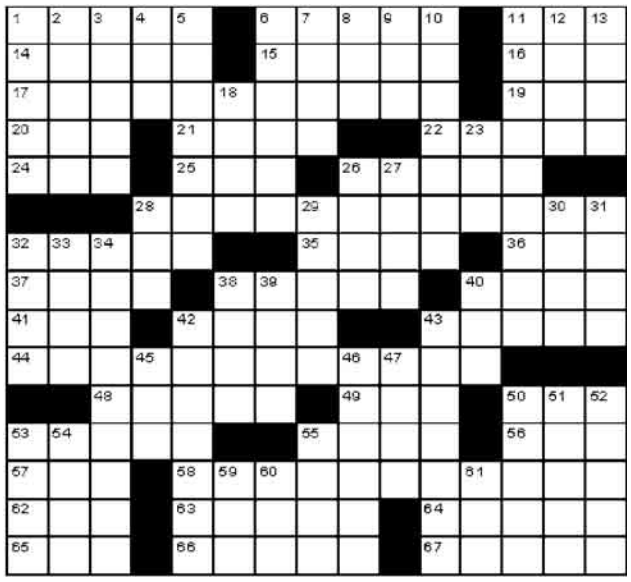
WRITE TO EXPRESS

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. **E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.**

Yesterday's Solution



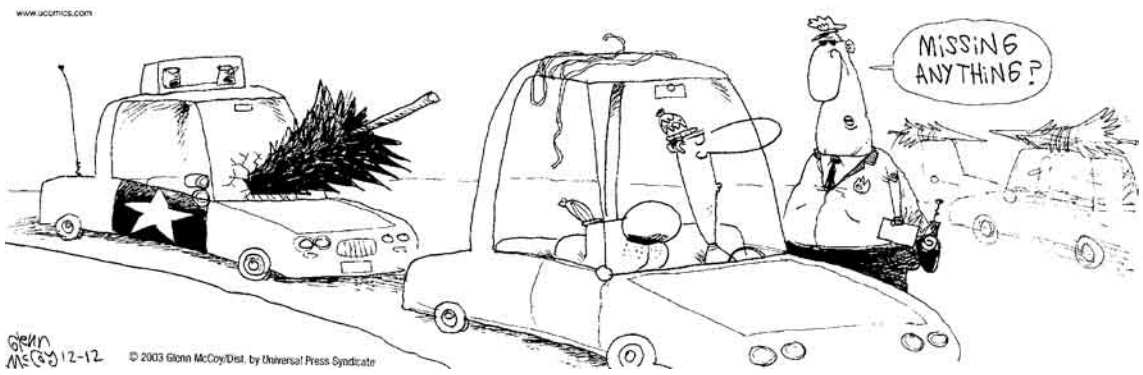
Crossword Puzzle: Excuses, Excuses | *Edited by Timothy E. Parker*



ACROSS
1 Famous Fibber
6 Drained river area
11 What to see in your Chevrolet
14 Directly in front
15 Wash away, as soil
16 Prefix with realism
17 "After a while"
19 A Bobbsey twin
20 Period in history
21 Some counting units
22 Glittered
24 Hanoi celebration
25 One of the Cyclades
26 Entire range
28 Delaying excuse
32 Plane's parking place
35 Diner sign
36 OSS follower
37 Orderly
38 Daisy-like flower
40 Boxing boundary
41 Mai ___
42 Woods unit
43 Accolades
44 Procrastinator's claim
48 Capital of Morocco
49 Word on the society page
50 TV police
53 Capacious
55 Variety of pea or bean
56 Melodic tune
57 Female gametes
58 "Hold on"
62 Blazed the trail
63 Same as always
64 Near-perfect ratings
65 Pulver's rank (Abbr.)
66 Decent chaps
67 ___ jaw (pug's liability)

DOWN
1 "Olympia" painter Édouard
2 Routine task
3 Gain access to
4 Musical talent
5 Issue
6 Urgent request
7 They may be fine or graphic
8 "Native ___"
9 Bachelor's last words
10 Rather and Brokaw, e.g.
11 Not spotted
12 Actor Penn
13 Absolutely first-rate
18 "I'm listening"
23 Syllable for marching
26 Drop one's jaw
27 State with confidence
28 Telegraphic signal
29 Novel by Hailey
30 "Venus de ___"
31 "... 'Cause I ___ me spinach, I'm Popeye ..."
32 Matter or hero prefix
33 Bells' sound
34 Sante Fe and Amtrak
38 Operatic 1987 movie
39 Scottish tartan pattern
40 Prickly seed vessel (Var.)
42 Drinking mug in the shape of a man
43 Hanging on to
45 Three Gorges project
46 Chronology of events
47 Squad
50 Flora's companion
51 Makes reference to
52 Leafy green vegetable
53 Actor's part
54 Chamber to bake in
55 Rebounds, e.g.
59 "Oh, what's the ___?"
60 Star of heat and light
61 Lacking value

The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*



Horoscope | *Stella Wilder*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You should be able to make a memorable entrance of sorts, despite any obstacles that lie in your way. Rivals will be impressed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A change of plans dictated by someone else isn't likely to sit well with you. See to it that your rights and wishes are respected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Communication is more important than you might expect. Even the usual modes may not be enough at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can take many precautions to see that your plans don't go awry. You needn't be very original right now — just thorough.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may be receiving important clues that can help you as you struggle to find the key to a personal mystery. Heed all unspoken signals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may have to play the waiting game, but you should be able to outlast even your closest competitor. Patience is your strong suit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You would be wise to wait just a little longer to finalize your opinion about something going on at home — until you have all the evidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You're not going to be able to figure out what others are thinking about you. So stock up on confidence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take care that you aren't misleading people — even unintentionally. Focus on the truth, wherever you may find it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You don't know all you need to know — but you can find it out. Someone you trust holds the key to an important mystery.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may have to put up with a great deal of disbelief, particularly when you try to persuade others that one of your favorite stories is true.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may not want to look at the truth squarely. What are you afraid of? Is there something you're actually trying to hide from someone?

LIVE ONLINE

'Trista & Ryan'

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Washington Post staff writer and TV Columnist **LISA DE MORAES** was online Thursday and talked about the ABC program "Trista & Ryan's Wedding."

They said Trista and Ryan's wedding cost nearly $4 million, yet it was so incredibly tacky! I guess money can't buy class or taste.

Apparently you can spend $4 million and still have a ticky-tacky wedding. I watched the whole gruesome two hours, while also watching the Billboard Music Awards. Each required only half a brain, so it worked out fine.

This girl is in for the letdown of her life. Can you imagine having a J. Lo-worthy entourage focused on your every move and then ... nothing — nothing, that is, but the day-to-day reality of marriage (and life in rural Colorado). My guess is she's going to try for a baby real soon and get ABC to throw the shower.

Ah, you apparently did not read the cover story of the latest Us magazine, or was it People? Or TV Guide? Anyway, she's going to put her fabulous Hollywood career on hold in order to have the Bachelorette Baby.

ABC will no doubt follow her pregnancy, when she gets pregnant, minute by minute, after which the baby's whole life will be detailed in monthly GMA reports by Diane Sawyer ...

What were the ratings for "Trista & Ryan"? Was it worth it to ABC?

Seventeen million viewers. Penultimate half-hour up to more than 19 million. Totally worth it to ABC .... They didn't actually pay $4 million to put on the wedding. I suspect most of the junk was provided free in exchange for many plugs on air. Just guessing here.

Today on Live Online

10:30 A.M.: Post staff writer Stephen Argeris discusses Washington native and former boxing champion William Joppy's bid to upset middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins.

2 P.M.: Dr. Mark Weissman, chief of pediatrics at Children's National Medical Center, discusses the flu, the vaccine supply and the vulnerability of children to influenza.

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